

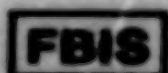
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31 March 1980

Worldwide Report

EPIDEMIOLOGY

No. 180



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WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

ALBANIA-TURKEY AGREEMENT--An agreement on prevention and fighting contagious and parasitic diseases in the People's Socialist Republic of Albania and the Republic of Turkey was signed in Tirana today between the Government of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Turkey. Jahja Pula, deputy minister of health, signed the agreement for Albania. Metin Karaca, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Turkey to the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, signed for Turkey. Also present was Justin Papajorgji, director of the Fourth Directorate of the Foreign Affairs Ministry. [Text] [AU272159 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 27 Feb 80 AU]

CSO: 5400

TB PATIENTS TREATED FREE OF CHARGE

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 20 Feb 80 p 3

[Text]

Tuberculosis or TB for short has been one of the most destructive diseases playing havoc with lives of peoples in underdeveloped countries mainly due to malnutrition and lack of hygiene.

Though this contagious scourge has been combatted in Afghanistan through vaccination and treatment including hospitalization and there has been an Anti-TB Institute operative in this country for the past few years to coordinate the combat activities and obtain foreign

help including expertise, equipment and medicine. It has been difficult to cope with all the patients because of limited number of beds allotted to them in local hospitals and the cost of medication.

To begin with, a patient is to be examined and then have his lungs x-rayed. Then he has to buy the pills and other medicines prescribed for him. Afterwards comes the important question of complete rest and suitable diet.

A poor man or woman for that matter could not afford to comply with the above despite the fact that in the past few years, examinations in polyclinics have been free.

In the wake of the new phase of the glorious Saur Revolution the DRA Government has decided that all TB patients should be treated free of charge so that on the one hand, these poor people may regain their health, on the other the younger generations may be immunized against this scourge.

According to a doctor in charge of the TB Ward at Avicenna Hospital, this disease knows no age limits nor sex. There are 7 beds for TB patients at

this hospital, exclusively for women patients, while the male ones are sent to Ali Abad Hospital.

Between 300 and 500 persons approach the hospital daily for tests and examinations. But thanks to the new measure adopted by the government, this number will soon be drastically curtailed.

Now each patient will be hospitalized after thorough examinations and various tests carried out through specialists and the hospital labs. And he or she will remain there as long as the disease is cured.

Previously, not only the patient had to pay Af. 410 per month for his bed but also buy almost all the medicines required for his treatment.

And there existed so many who were either too weak to leave their villages for Kabul or go to provincial centres for treatment or could not afford the expenses and thus resigned themselves with gradual deaths.

The doctor emphasized that since the health of patients who have their lungs, bones or kidneys ravaged by this insidious disease cannot be restored, it is possible to rescue those who are still in the first stages of ailment.

However, the most important implication of this recent decision is that the ground will be gradually prepared for the younger generations to be immunized to this destructive disease by getting rid of the patients now to be freely hospitalized if they are brought to the capital or the provincial centres.

Of course this calls for adding to the total number of beds allotted to TB patients and having well-stocked pharmacies inside each hospital, matters which the Public Health Ministry is aware of and makes efforts to carry out this humanitarian decision.

CSO: 5400

POLITICIANS SCORED ON HOSPITAL COSTS OVERTURN

Hospital Association Report

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 8 Jan 80 p 3

[Report by Medical Writer Ron Hicks]

[Text]

POLITICIANS must be prepared to make difficult decisions to reduce the number of hospital beds, according to the people who run the hospitals.

The Australian Hospitals Association, in its submission to the Federal Government's commission of inquiry into the efficiency and administration of hospitals, says politicians complained about soaring health costs, but had been too concerned about the electoral implications of rationalisation to take effective action.

The association, which represents most of the nation's leading hospitals, admits there is a need to rationalise hospital services because Australia has one of the world's highest ratios of hospital beds to population.

CYNICISM

"It would appear to the association that, in the past, political factors have often had some influence on the location and development of facilities and services," the submission says.

"While it is understandable that health care is influenced by political considerations, it is

not of benefit to the community, and it engenders a degree of cynicism in health care professionals to have basic aspects of health care determined in the ever-changing political arena.

"Hospitals should not be blamed for the cost of their services if political decisions on resource allocation, based on issues independent of cost and efficiency, should prevail."

The association made 23 major recommendations or comments in its submission to the inquiry, which will hold hearings in every capital city this year.

Some of the main recommendations in the submission are:

RATIONALIZATION of health services must include private as well as public hospitals if it is to be fully effective.

HOSPITALS run by the Department of Veterans' Affairs should be integrated with State Hospital systems to reduce costs. If not, they must be included in any rationalisation.

BUDGETS for capital and operating costs of hospitals should be allocated on a three-year basis, instead of the present one year, so administrators can plan more efficiently.

INCENTIVES

HOSPITAL management should be given more responsibility and flexibility on staff and resources allocation, and there should be a move away from line-by-line budgeting to overall budgeting.

INCENTIVES should be provided to improve individual hospital efficiency by allowing them to keep any savings for improvements or share it with other hospitals in the region. There should be closer co-operation between hospitals in the same region to achieve economies.

FUNDS should be provided for research into the real cost of treating a patient in a hospital, instead of the current overall patient day figures, so that the true efficiency of a hospital can be assessed and sound planning decisions made.

DOCTORS, the real decision-makers as far as the use of hospital resources are concerned, must become more involved in hospital management.

The submission says experience indicates that greater involvement and responsibility will not only make them more cost-conscious, but also improve the quality of care because there will be greater evaluation of procedures.

Bed Shortage in Queensland

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL is English 5 Jan 80 p 7

[Text] Increasing the number of hospital beds--while other States make cut-backs--was a priority for the early 1980s, the State Health Minister, Sir William Knox, said yesterday.

He said Queensland already had the most hospital beds available to the public, at the most efficient cost.

But with the State's population expanding, and more of it outside than inside the capital city area, there was a need for more.

Sir William said it was not a case of country towns getting the status of a new hospital just because a rival town had good facilities.

And he pledged that the Queensland hospital system would remain "free" to all.

The daily cost in 1978-79 to maintain one occupied hospital bed in Queensland was \$123. This was the lowest figure in Australia, with Western Australia highest at \$174 a day.

Statistics for hospital beds available for every 1000 showed 5.47 in Queensland, 5.33 in New South Wales and 5.09 in Victoria.

Sir William said the following hospital expansion or establishment projects were under way or in the planning stage:

Biloela, 18 beds (\$400,000); Boulia, two single wards (\$445,000); Princess Alexandra Hospital, 60-bed spinal unit (\$4.1 million); Mater Hospital, 275 extra beds (\$82 million).

Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Coppers Plains, 200 beds (\$19 million); Bundaberg Hospital, new maternity block (\$6 million); Cairns, 200 extra beds (\$21 million).

70 beds

Charleville, 70 beds (\$1.7 million); Cooktown, new 18-bed hospital; Croydon, expansion; Dysart, new 16-bed hospital (\$1 million); Ferny Grove, 40-bed holding hospital (\$1.1 m); Oonah, proposed new 60-bed hospital.

Herberton, 40-bed hospital (\$1.9 million); Jundah, new hospital; Mackay, 140-bed hospital; Maryborough, \$7.7 million redevelopment.

Mornington Island, 10-bed hospital; Mungindi, 34-bed hospital (\$1.6 million); Mount Isa, redevelopment hospital with 140 beds; Redcliffe, 100-bed holding block (\$34.3 million); Rockhampton, new 311-bed medical services block, new 40-bed nursing home unit; Sandgate, proposed new 40-bed holding hospital.

Townsville, 40-bed nursing home (\$1.5 million); Warwick, 40 nursing home beds (\$1.1 million); Wynnum, 40-bed holding hospital (\$1.4 million).

AUSTRALIA

TUBERCULOSIS FOUND STILL A THREAT TO AUSTRALIANS' HEALTH

Medical Journal Report

Melbourne THE AGE in English 31 Dec 79 p 3

[Report from Philip McIntosh, Medical Reporter]

[Text] 'The Medical Journal of Australia' has warned doctors and the public that it would be "complacency at its worst" to dismiss tuberculosis as a disease of the past.

The journal said 1292 new TB cases were notified in Australia last year.

There were another 72 people whose tuberculosis became infectious again after a period of stability.

The journal said in an editorial that TB remained a significant problem with about 10 new cases per 100,000 people each year.

"It would be complacency at its worst, therefore, to subscribe to the commonly expressed view that tuberculosis is a disease of the past," the journal said.

"This is particularly so at a time when the number of Indo-Chinese refugees coming to Australia is increasing."

The journal said that, in 1978, there were 237 cases of TB among the refugees.

The deputy director of general health in the State Health Commission, Dr. Graham Rutch, said yesterday: "We have to continue educating the profession. There's a tendency to believe it (TB) has disappeared, which it hasn't done."

In an interview with The Age recently, the professor of pathology at Monash University, Professor Richard Nairn, said "It hardly exists in Victoria... the disease has virtually disappeared from Victoria."

At the same time the dean of the faculty of medicine at Sydney University, Professor Richard Gye, said "TB is a rare occurrence in Australia."

"It's higher among Vietnamese refugees. But the disease over the past 20 years has ceased to be a problem," he said. "It's virtually extinct."

The latest annual report of the former Victorian Commission of Public Health (for the year ending June, 1978) said there were 274 new notifications of the disease in Victoria in that period.

There were 25 other people with reactivated TB and seven chronic cases, making a total of 306 people with active TB.

This was 40 fewer than in 1976.

The end of mass X-ray surveys in the community was almost certainly the main cause of the decline in case-load, the report said.

Tuberculosis is not often fatal but the report shows that 36 people in Victoria died with evidence of active TB (average age 66 years). TB was listed on 18 death certificates as the prime cause of death.

The medical journal said a major lesson to emerge from the Australian TB Clinical Conference held in Darwin last year was that "tuberculosis is, and will re-

main for many years, a significant infectious disease in Australia".

It also said TB must be considered in the diagnosis of any respiratory infection or any generalised disease when the diagnosis was in doubt.

A third lesson was that modern drug therapy could completely cure the disease.

The journal warned that in some ways the public was more vulnerable than ever because there was less exposure, lower resistance and drastically reduced vaccination.

Dr Routh said TB can affect the lungs, the kidneys, the pelvis, the joints and the brain.

Situation in West Australia

From THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 4 Jan 80 p 30

[Text] Tuberculosis is on the increase in WA and the people most at risk are those more than 45 years.

Last year, 184 cases were notified compared with 166 in 1978.

These figures were given by Dr Joseph Cassidy, who was recently appointed director of the Public Health Department's chest and tuberculosis services.

Dr Cassidy was a chest physician in Ireland for 10 years and a consultant physician to the Fijian Government before coming to WA.

He urges all people over 50 to have a regular chest X-ray every second year.

The radiation risk to older people was minimal, he said.

There was a general feeling in WA that tuberculosis was finished,

but this was not so.

Five years ago the number of cases notified had been only 140.

Dr Cassidy said that most cases of active infectious TB occurred in older people.

A few cases had been picked up among Vietnamese refugees, but all were screened on arrival and affected people were admitted to hospital and treated.

Now that chest X-rays were no longer compulsory, it was difficult to find affected people in the community.

Because people of middle age and above had lived their youth in a community where tuberculosis was still, many were likely to have been infected with TB organ-

isms though they might not yet have shown symptoms.

The infection had been widespread till 1947 when anti-TB drugs were introduced.

A person could become infected, yet the disease might not become apparent for perhaps 30 years.

Because of the mass compulsory X-ray programme WA still had one of the lowest rates of TB in the world, with the 1978 incidence at 11.7 per 100,000 of the population.

People had forgotten how appalling the outcome could be for those who contracted TB and did not have the advantage of modern treatment.

MANY DIED

Before the advent of anti-TB drugs, 80 per

cent of people found to have active TB organisms in their sputum were dead within three years.

Some might have been cured, but others still living could be smothered by TB bacilli.

People found to have the disease could be treated without undue interference with their business or home lives.

People could get a free chest X-ray at the clinic at 17 Murray Street, Perth, or the Physiotherapy clinic at 89 High Street.

The department's mobile X-ray vans toured around the city and suburban areas and hoped to encourage people of 45 and over to have free chest X-rays.

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

TORRES MALARIA OUTBREAK--A medical team has been sent to the Torres Strait area to contain an outbreak of malaria. Queensland's Minister for Health, Sir William Knox, said three cases had occurred on Moa Island. It appeared that the transmission of the disease occurred locally. The State Health Department has warned malaria could be reintroduced into Australia as a "local" disease. This follows an increase in traffic to and from overseas countries for business and other reasons. And a species of mosquito prevalent in northern Queensland can spread the disease. [Excerpts] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 24 Jan 80 p 3]

INEFFECTIVE MEASLES VACCINE--Some stocks of measles vaccines are being withdrawn because they may be ineffective. This is the second time in two months that defective measles vaccines have been found in Australia. The assistant Minister for Health, Mr. Lieberman, said yesterday that a particular batch of the Belgian-made vaccine, Rimevax, had been withdrawn. He said there was no question about the vaccine's safety, but people who had taken it might not have acquired immunity to the disease. [Excerpt] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 17 Jan 80 p 5]

SALMONELLA DANGERS--The salmonella organism which caused the outbreak of food poisoning in Mildura was probably responsible for 20,000 similar cases in Australia each year. A microbiologist at Queensland University, Mr. John Bensink, said yesterday the number could be as high as 200,000. But there was no way of knowing exactly how many cases there were because salmonellosis (salmonella poisoning) was not a notifiable disease in Australia. The estimate of 20,000 cases was based on world-wide figures that only 1 per cent of salmonellosis sufferers sought medical treatment. Microbiologists at Melbourne University have found that the organism responsible for the first outbreak, which affected 85 people, was salmonella bovis morbificans, one of 1800 different strains of the disease. [Excerpts] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 8 Jan 80 p 6]

ENCEPHALITIS VIRUS MONITORED--The occurrence of the encephalitis virus in the Kimberley region of WA has led the Public Health Department and the University of WA's department of microbiology to establish a programme which will monitor the presence and movement of this virus in the area. The isolation of the

virus at Port Hedland earlier this year has focused similar attention to the Pilbara region. The encephalitis virus programme, which is planned to operate in many North-West shires, involves two reliable monitoring tests. The first is the use of dry ice baited traps which are used to collect samples of mosquitoes. These mosquitoes are then identified, counted and forwarded to the University department of microbiology for further examination. In the second test, monthly blood samples are taken from sentinel animals, usually domestic chickens, and again sent to the University for examination for the presence of the encephalitis virus antibody. [Excerpts] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 18 Dec 79, Supp., p 18]

VIRUS CODE GRANT--A Queensland University doctor has been awarded a \$23,467 grant to establish a code for the description of virus characters. Microbiology Department virology reader (Dr. John Atherton) said yesterday his job would be to devise an internationally acceptable computerised system of storing about 2000 characters. He said the grant by the Clive and Vera Ranaclotti Australia Foundation would be over a two-year period, but he doubted if his work would be completed in that time. Dr. Atherton is code and data sub-committee chairman of the International Committee of Taxonomy of Viruses, which has about 55 members throughout the world. [Text] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 18 Dec 79 p 15]

CSO: 5400

BOLIVIA

BRIEFS

MEASLES CAMPAIGN--The Health Ministry has begun a measles vaccination campaign in La Paz. [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 24 Feb 80 p 11 PY]

CSO: 5400

GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO CONTROL ALL COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BY 1985

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Feb 80 p 24

[Text] Brasilia--By the end of this government's term of office, all communicable diseases will be under control, through systematic immunization. At least, that is the hope of Health Minister Waldyr Arcoverde, who says that infantile paralysis will be controlled sooner--within 3 years--since a more effective vaccination procedure will permit immunization of the whole target population in less time, using simple equipment. Communicable diseases are a major cause of death for children under 1 year of age.

It will take longer to bring under control the other diseases for which vaccination of children under 1 year of age is required--measles, tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough and tuberculosis--because both preservation and use of the antigens require specialized personnel and proper maintenance procedures. The measles vaccine, for example, must be diluted and applied within 2 hours at the most; otherwise, it loses its effectiveness.

If by the end of 1985 the Health Ministry can make such progress in combating communicable disease; transform the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ) "into a veritable international laboratory" for quality control, analysis, research and production of immunobiologicals and drugs to prevent communicable and tropical diseases (such as Chagas' disease, malaria and schistosomiasis, among others); and install the basic network of health services--giving priority to prevention--Waldyr Arcoverde asserts that the outcome will be satisfactory, because Brazil will then be able to say that it has a public health service.

Immunizations

Smallpox may be the only disease that will ever be completely eradicated worldwide through immunization, says epidemiologist Roberto Becker, head of the National Medical Epidemiology Division, responsible for the National Immunization Program.

This is because the other preventable diseases have much more complicated epidemiological behavior, which precludes absolute certainty that any of them

will some day be eliminated globally. Several factors tend to favor eradication of smallpox: the vaccine is easier to administer and more likely to be effective; it is, moreover, a disease that has behaved more or less uniformly throughout the years and all over the world.

The United States, for instance, announced that it would eliminate measles by the end of this year, which, says Becker, will not happen, since only 10 percent of the cases of this illness are diagnosed and reported to U.S. health authorities. In Brazil this problem is even more serious: under-reporting in all states is such that the Health Ministry is informed of only half of all deaths occurring annually. As a result, the other half are attributed to undetermined causes and vital statistics consist of merely hearsay evidence regarding the fatal disease, since most patients are not even taken to a hospital.

"Furthermore," the Rio Grande do Sul epidemiologist stresses, "an under-nourished child who contracts measles always has complications, such as bronchial pneumonia, diarrhea and otitis, which will figure among the causes of death. That is why the reported incidence of measles, and of all diseases preventable by immunization, will not be accurate in Brazil."

By December of last year, the state health secretariats reported to the Health Ministry that 46.3 percent of all children under 1 year of age had been immunized against infantile paralysis (representing 1,256,049 applications of the third dose); 48 percent, against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough (1,304,051 applications of the second dose); 46 percent against measles (1,247,652 one-time doses); and 52.7 percent, against tuberculosis (1,430,321 one-time shots). These calculations were based upon only 75 percent of the population under 1 year of age taken as a basis the previous year.

The state of Maranhao had one of the lowest rates of coverage: 5.5 percent for the Sabin vaccine; 11.9 percent, DTP [diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough]; 18.2 percent, measles; and 18.5 percent BCG [vaccine against tuberculosis]. Sao Paulo immunized 108.7 percent of the child population against polio, 94.9 percent with all three doses; 95.4 percent against measles; and 104.8 percent with intradermal BCG. These figures arouse some doubt: either some children were vaccinated two or more times, or the record of immunizations performed is incorrect, especially since these diseases continue to attack Sao Paulo children, where the statistics of mortality are still quite high, as indeed they are nationwide.

Infrastructure

Brazil today has 6,039 locations of all types where immunizations are made, according to a recent survey conducted by the SESP [Special Public Health Service] Foundation. The vast majority of these are health stations--4,749. There are also 422 medical aid stations, 320 "others," 291 "joint units," 132 pediatric clinics and 125 hospitals. Of all the states, Bahia, Goias and Maranhao are the only ones that do not have a health station in each municipality.

According to the survey, state health secretariats provide the greatest number of vaccination stations (4,642), compared to 571 provided by municipal health secretariats; 353, by SESP foundations; 206, by "other entities"; 174 private clinics; INAMPS [National Institute for Social Security Medical Assistance] is in sixth place, with only 900 units nationwide; and LBA [Brazilian Welfare Legion], 52.

The SESP Foundation also surveyed the methods available to each location for preserving vaccines. These data, however, represent only a small portion of what should in reality be a genuine cold-storage network for vaccines, the lack of which has been responsible for deterioration of thousands of vaccine doses that, if applied, will be ineffective.

In the 6,039 vaccination locations, the survey found 5,261 electric refrigerators; 250 kerosene refrigerators; 209 liquified-gas refrigerators; 156 ice boxes; 92 using other preservation means; 30 freezers; 30 convertible (electric or kerosene) refrigerators; and 11 other refrigerators.

8834

CSO: 5400

GOIAS TO BE PILOT STATE FOR POLIO IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 Feb 80 p 4

[Text] Goiania--Scientist Albert Sabin, discoverer of the vaccine against poliomyelitis, said yesterday that Goias would be the pilot state for determining how many children are carriers of that disease's virus, to serve as the basis for mass vaccination of Brazilian children under 5 years of age that begins in June.

Sabin arrived in Goiania yesterday for a few hours' visit as an official guest of the state government and was greeted at the Santa Genoveva Airport by a group of children carrying signs of welcome. At the airport, he explained the reasons for his visit:

"Before beginning mass vaccination, it is important to determine how many cases of poliomyelitis there are in Brazil. Our statistics are not adequate for that purpose. We must find out how many children have the virus in their arms, in their legs, in their chest, in their spinal column. There will be 1.8 million children examined in Brazil. The first stage is in Goias, where we must examine from 50,000 to 100,000. It is quite simple."

At a meeting with Goias state health authorities, the scientist presented a report entitled "Estimate of Magnitude of Paralytic Poliomyelitis Problem in Brazil," covering the 1969-76 period. He noted that "residual paralysis, attributable to poliomyelitis acquired in early life, is sufficiently characteristic to permit clinical diagnosis with a high probability of certainty."

He also pointed out that if the rate of paralysis in Ghana, where he also studied the problem, of 5.8 per 1,000 were applied to Brazil, there would be 42,340 children in the 6 to 7 age group and 38,280 in the 10 to 11 age group with residual paralytic poliomyelitis.

Sabin believes a 10 percent sample of children, divided between rural and urban schools in the various states, would provide a realistic estimate. "It thus will be necessary to examine 730,000 children of the first group and 680,000 of the second, for a total of 1.4 million."

HEALTH MINISTRY RECEIVES SAMPLES OF USSR POLIO VACCINE

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 22 Feb 80 p 5

[Text] Brasilia--The Health Ministry yesterday received samples of a Soviet-made vaccine against poliomyelitis, which will now be sent to a laboratory in Mexico to test its strength and effectiveness. The medicine has been analyzed by the National Secretariat of Basic Health Activities to test its effectiveness.

This information comes from Health Minister Waldyr Arcoverde, who also announced purchase of 40 million doses of vaccine at 1 cruzeiro each, a lower price than that of former sources such as Canada, Belgium, Yugoslavia and the United States, which charge 1.20 cruzeiros per dose of Sabin vaccine.

The first 10 million doses of the order arrive in Brazil on 27 February and the rest by the end of May. The vaccine will be used by the National Campaign for Vaccination Against Poliomyelitis on the days set by the program: 14 July for the first dose and 18 August for the second.

Scientist Albert Sabin, Nobel prizewinner in medicine, returned to Brasilia yesterday to continue his research on poliomyelitis in Brazil. He will hold a press conference today, accompanied by the director of the National Secretariat of Basic Health Activities, Joao Baptista Rizzi Junior.

8834

CSO: 5400

SCHISTOSOMIASIS UP IN ALAGOAS; DATA ON FORTALEZA SUBURB

SUCAM Report on Alagoas

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 13 Feb 80 p 8

[Text] Maceio--According to the latest census, 30 percent of the population of Maceio, nearly 400,000 inhabitants, have schistosomiasis, SUCAM [Superintendency for Public Health Campaigns] Superintendent Geraldo Vergetti reported, adding that in Alagoas there are 500,000 schistosomiasis cases in all. Hardest hit is the Mundau Valley, which has over 10 municipalities and an estimated population of 200,000 persons.

Half of Maranguape Affected

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 22 Feb 80 p 5

[Text] Fortaleza--Schistosomiasis affects 50 percent of the population of Maranguape, a municipality in Greater Fortaleza, according to research by the special program to control the disease. The Health Ministry has begun sanitation work there and in surrounding municipalities.

The Special Program for Schistosomiasis Control, of the Health Ministry, has also begun direct combat against the schistosomiasis snail.

Schistosomiasis is a disease characteristic of underdeveloped rural areas. It can be confused with other intestinal diseases. The early stages are characterized by constant disturbances. In the second phase, lesions appear in the spleen and liver and ascites (enlarged abdomen) develops--complications that are almost always fatal.

8834

CSO: 5400

YELLOW FEVER REPORTED IN GOIAS

Nine New Cases

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 14 Feb 80 p 6

[Text] Brasilia--Nine cases of jungle yellow fever, five of them confirmed, were reported in Goias by the Ministry of Health through SUCAM [Superintendency for Public Health Campaigns]. The count includes the municipalities of Ceres, Barro Alto, Uruacu, Formosa, Sao Joao d'Alianca, and Pilar de Goias.

As this is a cyclic disease which occurs every 7 years, the country is due for an epidemic outbreak of the infection, since the last epidemic occurred in 1973. Jose Fiusa Lima, Superintendent of SUCAM, revealed that the superintendency has begun mass vaccination in the entire affected area.

Risk to Cities

Jungle yellow fever is transmitted by the haemagogus mosquito, which lives in the forests feeding on the blood of macaques, natural hosts of the yellow fever virus. Infection occurs when the mosquito, after contracting the virus from a macaque, bites man.

The risk of contamination in urban areas is small, since it would be necessary for a city dweller contaminated in a rural area to return to the city within 24 to 48 hours and be bitten by a carrier of urban yellow fever, the aedes aegypti mosquito, which would have to contract the disease and immediately bite another man, establishing a chain of transmission.

Although the urban form has not existed in the country since 1942, the carriers exist normally, even in Rio, but they are not harmful. According to Waldyr Arcoverde, the minister of health, even in the United States the aedes aegypti exists and "a campaign to eradicate the carrier would only be successful if all countries, as they have done with smallpox, acted jointly with a massive effort. In the contrary case we would waste a great deal of money and we would be subject to reinfestation."

Fever Cases Old

San Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Feb 80 p 12

[Text] As the five fatal cases of jungle yellow fever recorded in the interior of Goias occurred last year, although only now have they been reported to the Health Ministry, SOCAM epidemiologist Pedro Tauil believes that the illness is decreasing in the region. This is not due to the recent immunization, but rather to the fact that the cases which are now known are old.

He stated that the outbreaks of yellow fever in the places where it has occurred always come with the summer rains, a coincidence which took six scientists from the Evandro Chagas Institute of Belem into the interior of Goias. They are collecting several types of mosquitoes that suck blood from humans and macaques to examine them by sampling so as to verify the epidemiological aspect of the disease, which is not yet thoroughly known.

12116

CSO: 5400

POLIO INCIDENCE REPORTED DOWN IN SAO PAULO, UP IN PARANA

Immunization Continues

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 Feb 80 p 16

[Excerpt] The number of cases of infantile paralysis is decreasing considerably in the capital and metropolitan region of Sao Paulo thanks to the three vaccination campaigns against poliomyelitis carried out in 1979. This information was divulged by the Secretariat of Health. In the meantime, in the ABC region [Santo Andre, Sao Bernardo do Campo and Sao Caetano do Sul] the distribution of Sabin vaccines yesterday did not reach even half of the 40,000 doses destined for the 7 municipalities, although a small demand was expected since most of the children were vaccinated at the end of last year. The immunization continued yesterday also in Guarulhos, reaching 70 shantytowns in the municipality. In January 1979 16 cases were reported in the capital and its metropolitan area, compared to 4 in January 1980. There have not been any cases of polio reported in that area in the first 13 days of February, while in February of last year 9 cases were reported. On 6 February alone 223,000 doses of vaccine were administered, most of them for reinforcement.

In Santo Andre 4,037 children were vaccinated yesterday in the 11 state health posts and at least twice as many must have been vaccinated by FAISA [Foundation for Assistance to Infants], which maintains 22 posts for child care and which has received 20,000 doses of Sabin vaccine, but still has not calculated how many doses it has given.

In Sao Bernardo do Campo 6,000 children were vaccinated yesterday compared to 9,000 last November. The small turnout at the health posts was anticipated by the Health Center, principally because at the beginning of January the prefecture distributed 62,000 doses of Sabin, triple vaccine and measles vaccine. The other cities of the ABC yesterday did not count up the total number of doses distributed in the 139 posts scattered throughout the region. The broad program of immunization against infantile paralysis was also carried out yesterday in Guarulhos: In addition to the teams scattered among 15 pediatric and child care posts which had been set up on the outskirts, the health authorities circulated through the 70 existing shantytowns, distributing a total of 60,000 doses of Sabin vaccine to

vaccinate children in the age bracket from 1 month to 3 years. From 0800 to 1800 hours yesterday, at least 85 percent of the children in Guarulhos were sent to the posts for vaccination.

More Cases in Parana

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Feb 80 p 5

[Text] Curitiba--The number of children in Parana affected by poliomyelitis this year has increased to 102 with 12 deaths. The municipalities affected are Reserva, Sao Pedro do Ivaí, Santa Isabel, Ivaí, Araucaria, and Curitiba. The last five cases, with two deaths, were reported to the Secretariat of Health and Social Welfare.

According to Dr Natal Jatai de Camargo, chief of the sector of epidemiological vigilance of the SESB (Secretariat of Health and Social Welfare), the present rate is not alarming, since although 56,050 children had been vaccinated up to 31 January, when the massive vaccination campaign was closed, "immunization occurs only after the third dose."

In any event--he added--the epidemic could have been avoided in part if instead an emergency mobilization campaign had been carried out to make the population aware of the dangers of the illness. A greater information campaign on the part of the Ministry of Health and the Secretariat itself was lacking.

To avoid a repetition of the problem, Jatai de Camargo stated that beginning now the campaigns will be made annually, since the last one was in 1973. The chiefs of the 20 SESB districts are in Curitiba, analyzing with Secretary Oscar Alves the results of the application of the first dose of the vaccine.

12116
CNO: 3400

BRIEFS

INADEQUATE CHAGAS PREVENTION PROGRAM--Although Chagas disease is responsible for the deaths of 50 percent of the Brazilian population, the government does not have "in its health plan any priority for research related to vaccination against the disease," according to Jose Rodrigues Coura, director of the Oswaldo Cruz Institute. Professor Coura is in Natal participating in the 16th Congress of the Society for Tropical Medicine. The professor, who occupies the chair of Infectious and Parasitical Diseases in the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, stated that treatment of Chagas disease would be very effective--it would prevent 4 million cases in 20 years--if the government invested 900 million cruzeiros in a preventive program. He recognized at the same time that the application of insecticides in the endemic zones is doing a great deal to reduce the dimensions of the sickness, eradicating it in certain areas. He defended the necessity of complementing that work with the replacement of several different kinds of houses by plastered houses, such houses alone are able to prevent barber bugs from living in them. This insect transmits the disease. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 6 Feb 80 p 8] 12116

MATO GROSSO MENINGITIS OUTBREAK--Cuiaba--An outbreak of meningeococcus meningitis has killed 12 persons in less than 1 month in the localities of Cascalheira Serra Dourada and Canarana in the interior of the Mato Grosso Municipality of Barra do Garças. The population of this vast area where the disease is manifesting itself with increasing violence is in panic, above all because the secretary of health for the state has divulged that he has no vaccines available. The first cases were detected on 22 January in Canarana where the Oswaldo Cruz Hospital, maintained by the Canarana Cooperative, informs us that there are three more persons ill. The greatest number of deaths--eight--has occurred in Cascalheira. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 7 Feb 80 p 26] 12116

FOOT-AND-MOUTH VACCINE--The increase of 29.5 percent in the price of foot-and-mouth vaccine, which went into effect on 1 February, coinciding with the beginning of the National Campaign to Combat Foot-and-Mouth Disease, has caused misunderstandings between the retail sellers and some distributing laboratories, culminating with a lack of the product on the market.

In Sao Paulo the vaccine practically cannot be found in Aracatuba, Oswaldo Cruz, Andradinha, Mirandopolis, and Dracena. [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Feb 80 p 19] 12116

DATA ON LEPROSY INCIDENCE--Rio--According to data furnished by the Evangelical Commission for Rehabilitation of Sufferers from Hansen's Disease, leprosy is very endemic in the country, as Brazil has 60 percent of all cases recorded in the entire American continent. The state of Rio de Janeiro has more than 1,000 new cases every year while San Paulo records six cases every day. According to the statistics from the Evangelical Commission, the leprosy-carrying population in Brazil must reach the neighborhood of 500,000 sufferers. With the objective of debating the problem and with the basis of the World Day of the Hansen's Disease Patient, which is being commemorated every second Sunday in February, the Evangelical Commission is promoting a series of events during which detailed information on the treatment and cure of the disease is being furnished. [Text] [Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 9 Feb 80 p 8] 12116

POLIO CASES REPORTED--Seven cases of polio have been reported in the state of Alagoas, and the state's health secretary has announced the beginning of a vaccination campaign immediately, without waiting for Soviet-made vaccines scheduled to arrive in June. The state's health secretariat will use its polio vaccine stocks at this time. [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 13 Mar 80 p 16 PY]

CBO: 5400

BRIEFS

VACCINATIONS EVERY WEEK--Addis Ababa (ENA)--Vaccinations against six children's diseases and other viruses that harass young ones, are being conducted in 16 clinics and two hospitals here since last week, the Ministry of Public Health declared yesterday. The vaccinations against children's diseases are being given every Thursday to provide immunity against chickenpox, bronchitis, tuberculosis, diphtheria, and tetanus. The Ministry of Health has urged mass organizations to make every effort to enable the vaccination campaign achieve its goal. The vaccination campaign will begin in 40 towns in the 14 regions of the country in the following two weeks. [Text] [Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 22 Feb 80 p 5]

CSO: 5400

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

TERMINATION OF SMALLPOX VACCINATION--The mandatory immunization program in the GDR applies to tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles, and smallpox. As a result of this program, which is in compliance with the requirements of WHO (World Health Organization), there has been an extensive reduction in the incidence of tuberculosis, whooping cough, measles; and poliomyelitis, diphtheria, and tetanus have been eradicated among children. However, these diseases can be prevented only as long as protection by inoculation continues. The situation differs with respect to smallpox. As a result of the worldwide program conducted by WHO, this disease has been eradicated; the last case occurred in October 1977 in Somalia. The GDR, in agreement with the other socialist countries, is in the process of preparing to revoke compulsory smallpox vaccination in childhood. For the time being, mandatory smallpox inoculation is still in effect. [Excerpt] [East Berlin PRESSE-INFORMATIONEN in German No 23, 28 Feb 80 pp 5-6]

CSO: 5400

FLU SLACKENS AS WEATHER IMPROVES

Athens I KATHIMERINI in Greek 5 Mar 80 pp 1, 3

[Article by L. Petritsis]

[Text] The flu has reached its peak these days. It has stricken all ages and has already begun creating immunity. It is for this reason that the appropriate authorities believe that it is slackening.

It seems that the weather improvement will also contribute to this decline because, even though the flu is an epidemiological disease making its presence known during the summer and autumn seasons, in our country it shows an upsurge when the temperature drops. Such has always been the case according to the Social Services Ministry (except in 1957) with the Asiatic flu which some alien tourists brought here in August.

In any case this year's flu which is reported to have caused the death of a 17-year old girl is causing several complications especially among persons with sensitive respiratory systems. It starts with a light head-cold and advances to tracheal inflammation. A long-lasting cough with expectoration and high fever are its characteristics. In many cases there are severe pains in the chest, the back and the abdominal area.

This time our physicians are not reluctant to recommend the use of antibiotics even though they do not dry out the tissues. But they give antibiotics to prevent complications.

Isolation of Viruses

To get a complete picture of this year's flu we applied for information to academician Petro Vasileiadis, a microbiologist and hygienist, who continues his research work at the Greek Pasteur Institute on a voluntary basis and who is one of the most competent persons to give information.

The National Flu Center, where an information network has been established and where sampling surveys are made for isolating the flu viruses in existence, is under the jurisdiction of the Pasteur Institute whose director is Professor Charles Serie [transliteration].

Thus, the Texas type A virus and the Hong Kong-Singapore type A viruses were isolated in samples which were taken--with the assistance of visiting nurses--from institutions, the army, and crowded quarters in various areas.

The Hong Kong type B virus was isolated at the second flu center in the Microbiology School of the Aristotelian University in Salonica whose director is Professor Ioan. Panagiotopoulos. According to a report published in the 15 February issue of the World Health Organisation Bulletin, the type B virus was also isolated in France, Norway and the United States while the Texas type A virus has spread in West Germany, Czechoslovakia, East Germany and Switzerland.

According to Professor Vasileiadis, since 1933 and about every 10 years, the type A virus develops new sub-types possibly through crossbreeding with animal type A viruses. These types are found in animals and do strike human beings. But during their crossbreeding they help develop new virus types with different antigens to which the people are not immune. On the other hand, the type C virus is stable. It does not undergo changes and its cases are sporadic and of mild form.

Generally speaking, the variations of viruses do not cause wide flu epidemics. It is for this reason that this year the number of persons stricken is not too high and the incidence of illness is not massive. But there is a flu periodicity particularly in large organisations, institutions and schools where the percentage is greater. These variations change every 1 or 2 years and the population acquires antibodies against such variations. But when new variations appear the human organism is not immune to them.

According to Vasileiadis the type A and B virus epidemics usually break out suddenly, their duration is short-lived and subsides in a month. But along with the flu there may coexist other infections which may be confused with it and such may be the case right now in many flu cases. The "gland virus" which was isolated in the Pasteur Institute is among the more than 100 viruses in circulation today. This virus strikes the respiratory system and causes coughing and other symptoms even though it is not at all related to the flu.

Vaccine

Vasileiadis said that the vaccine will provide protection even if taken now. Its protection reaches a percentage of 70 to 80 percent but it should not be given to the aged, to those with cardio-pulmonary conditions and to persons suffering from respiratory illnesses or to diabetics. The vaccines used in the past 5 years contain Texas and Hong Kong viral agents. The Singapore and Hanover viruses are their variations and they provide protection up to a point in persons thus vaccinated .

Protection

People should avoid poorly ventilated, crowded areas, should protect themselves from the cold weather and dampness, should avoid excessive physical fatigue, and, above all, should avoid visiting sick persons.

The flu is an air-borne disease. It spreads through the air which carries the viral contaminated droplets. We should therefore avoid them.

7520
CSO:5400

HUNGARY

MINISTRY OF HEALTH REPORTS 'INFLUENZA-LIKE' CASES

AU041825 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 29 Feb 80 p 9 AU

[Text] The number of cases involving illnesses similar to influenza have increased in some regions of the country in February, but their scale has not reached dimensions characteristic of the beginning of epidemics. Thus, there is no influenza epidemic--this has been revealed by competent officials of the Ministry of Health.

In February, according to the sum total of figures, there was a larger-than-customary number of influenza-like cases in Békés and Komárom counties and the capital. That was the reason for an increase in absences from schools, for instance. According to the latest figures, last week, more than 7,000 people consulted doctors in Budapest and more than 4,000 in Békés County with symptoms similar to those of influenza. A large number of tests have been carried out by virus laboratories, but they have found and isolated influenza viruses (A2 and B) only in the cases of two persons.

Incidentally, similar to the practice of previous years, an influenza observation service has been in constant operation since last October in all the counties and the capital.

CSO: 5400

DIPHTHERIA OUTBREAK IN CENTRAL JAVA, CHOLERA IN WEST JAVA

Positive Identification of Diphtheria

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesia 11 Dec 79 p 13

[Excerpts] An epidemic in Karanganyar Regency (see KOMPAS, 6, 7 and 10 December) that has killed 20 children since October is positively diphtheria.

The Director General for Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases, Dr M. Adhyatma, MPH, told the press in Semarang on Monday morning that the Department of Health had identified the epidemic as diphtheria.

A Department of Health team left Jakarta for Karanganyar on Monday. A specialist in children's diseases is also helping in that area, and a consultant from the World Health Organization is there.

That same day, the Department of Health sent one million Rupiahs from operational funds to deal with the epidemic. In addition, medicine, in the form of serum and pills, was sent.

Adhyatma added that the Department of Health had received several reports about a sickness with symptoms like diphtheria in Karanganyar since October. An investigation by a clinic confirmed the illness as diphtheria, but laboratory tests at the time were negative.

However, the Center for the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases knew the illness was diphtheria.

Eleven Deaths from Cholera

Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian 11 Dec 79 p 1

[Excerpt] Eleven of 45 persons known to have cholera in Cibimbing Village, Kuningan Regency, West Java have died in the past two weeks.

According to information, 28 victims remain in the Public Health Center, Cibimbing Subdistrict, and 2,200 inhabitants have been vaccinated.

INDONESIA

PNEUMONIA STRIKES ISLAND OFF SUMATRA

Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian 9 Jan 80 p 1

[Article: "49 Siberut Inhabitants on Mentawai Die of the Flu"]

[Excerpt] The disease which caused the deaths of 49 persons in Taleleu village, Siberut, Mentawai Archipelago, from August (not September as reported in the news earlier) to November 1979 apparently is minor bronchial pneumonia which attacked the victims before they succumbed to influenza.

Dr Haji Rafki Ismail, chief of the West Sumatra Regional Office of the Department of Health, told SINAR HARAPAN on Monday, 7 January, that for the most part those who died of the disease were small children and adolescents who had little resistance to the disease.

Dr Rafki said records showed that death occurred at a minimum of 1 week after the onset of influenza. Those in the population who fell victim to the disease were malnourished when the disease attacked. Moreover, fruit was in season at the time so the population ate more fruit than sago and taro, their staple foods.

6804

CSO: 5400

HIGH INCIDENCE OF FILARIASIS IN EAST KALIMANTAN

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 3 Jan 80 p 6

[Article: "'Elephantiasis' Found in East Kalimantan"]

[Excerpts] The greatest number of cases of elephantiasis (filariasis) are found in Pasir Regency, East Kalimantan. In Waru Subdistrict 20.67 percent of the population was recorded as being infected with the disease while 13.7 percent of the population of Long Ikis Subdistrict and 8.76 percent of the population of Longkali Subdistrict suffer from the disease.

In the Samarinda capital city area about 6.46 percent of the population of Palaran Subdistrict, 3.67 percent of the population of Samboja Subdistrict (Wonotirto village), and 1.69 percent of the population of Lempake Samarinda Ilur, a transmigration village, suffer from the disease.

A number subdistricts in Kutai Regency are known to have many cases of filariasis.

Elephantiasis is an infectious disease spread by mosquitoes. It can only be prevented effectively by spraying an area with diethylcarbozine citrate (DEC).

6804

CSO: 5400

IRAN

BRIEFS

MEASLES EPIDEMIC--Tehran--Six children are reported to have died in the Masjed Soleyman region caused by an epidemic of measles which broke out in this area after the recent floods. Investigations made into the causes of death of these children revealed that they were not immunized against the disease. Reports reaching here said that the health authorities were taking necessary steps to prevent the further spread of measles to other areas. [Text] [Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 1 Mar 80 p 1]

CSO: 5400

PCI DEPUTY BLAMES REGIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR VIRUS OUTBREAKS

Sassari LA NUOVA SARDEGNA in Italian 22 Jan 80 p 2

[Interview with PCI's Giovanni Berlinguer on regional inactivity on health reform, in Cagliari, by Silvano Reina; date not given]

[Text] The Honorable Giovanni Berlinguer emphasizes in an interview how many problems could be confronted with a greater spirit of initiative. The case of funds allocated to combat cholera and never spent. No, to nuclear power plants; there is Sulcis coal in Sardinia.

Cagliari--A delegation of communist members of parliament, led by the Honorable Giovanni Berlinguer, journeyed to Sardinia and made on-the-spot inspections of the Cagliari hospital and the Santa Billa pond and went particularly to Gavoi, where they discovered many cases of viral hepatitis in Olbia and Sassari after meeting with the assessor at the Franco Rais Health Office. The delegation also included Senator Vinci Grossi, the Honorable Falopoli and the Honorable Francesco Macis, responsible for coordination among the PCI's parliamentary groups.

We asked the Honorable Berlinguer a few questions on the operational status of health reform.

[Question] Will your visit to Sardinia be rounded out with political action?

[Answer] We shall engage in various interrogations and interpellations on individual problems and we shall solicit government intervention on some of these questions. However, we have ascertained that many of the problems must be resolved in Sardinia. For example, there has been parliamentary discussion on the cholera epidemic. To one of my questions, asked jointly with some of my colleagues of the communist group, the representative of the Ministry of Health rightly answered that parliament and even the government had lived up to their responsibility: funds have been allocated and the necessary means made available to the region and Cagliari commune to clean up the waters. However, these sums have not been spent.

[Question] You asserted that the Sardinian Region is in last place in reference to carrying out health reform. But are there not other regions harder hit than ours?

[Answer] I did not say it was in last place, but in one of the last.

[Question] A few days ago, you said in an interview that the government is adverse to health reform and "wants to rid it of any real significance by using deceit, traps and sabotage." A rather harsh statement. Why would the government pursue this objective?

[Answer] For one thing, the government appointed a representative of the only party which had voted against reform to the position of minister of health. Secondly, this minister left Italy to go to Brazil so that, between the end of December and the first half of January, he might put his personal industrial affairs in order, that is, precisely when health reform was in its most difficult phase. Thirdly, parliament has voted to have certain government delegations adopt specific provisions, for example, those pertaining to work safety, hospital-university relations and health personnel; but none of these delegations has achieved any practical application up to now. On this point, I believe my statement has not really been harsh but rather an understatement of the government's true responsibilities.

[Question] On 31 December, the government ratified a decree whereby it is established that for 1980 a total of 16,000 billion lire will be allocated to the national health service. Who will pay this?

[Answer] These billions are not a new appropriation; they are not new sums which are to pour into health spending. They are what is called the "historic expenditure" for reform. However, it is said that 1 or 2 billion are still lacking to complete the expenditure allocated for 1979. Therefore, I would like to add another figure: in Italy the state spends about 300,000 lire per person for health assistance with the mutualistic system, thus providing assistance which is not complete. In England the equivalent of 250,000 lire per person is spent for national health service. Therefore, it is not true that health reform represents a waste: rather, it is a possible source of saving.

[Question] The law is good; this has been recognized by all parties which voted for it. But why does it still not succeed in getting off the ground?

[Answer] It depends mainly on the attitude of the government and regional administrations. Where the regions have worked well, and I refer especially to Emilia, Tuscany, Umbria, Liguria, Piedmont and Lazio, that is, to the "red" regions but also to other administrations, for example Venetia, health reform is already being implemented and will bear fruit rapidly. However, in other regions there is the danger that it may result in difficulties rather than in advantages. Whether health reform gets off the ground or not thus depends on the political initiative and administrative capacity of whoever has the responsibility for its implementation.

[Question] What position will private clinics take?

[Answer] The health reform measure provides that, where there is not a sufficient network of public hospitals, private clinics may continue not only to exist, because no law can forbid this, nor does health reform stand in their way, but also to be a part of the public-assistance system through agreements. Thus, there is also room for private clinics. However, in Cagliari the exact opposite has occurred: the existence of private clinics has prevented the establishment of public hospitals. On the other hand, in Sassari this connivance between private clinics and the local administration was not so pronounced. This is true to the extent that the civilian hospital in Sassari was achieved within a few years, whereas they have been speaking of a hospital in Cagliari for 30 years.

[Question] Nuclear power plants: these are being discussed these days. Radical councillors have presented an interpellation in a regional council. What is the PCI's position on this point?

[Answer] We are in favor but with many reservations, for we still do not have all the safety guarantees needed to determine suitable areas. However, we are extremely opposed to the construction of nuclear power plants in Sardinia, especially for an economic reason. There are other sources of energy in Sardinia which should be amply utilized, foremost among which is coal. It would be a new mockery if, after having constructed a thermo-electric power plant and operating it for decades with oil instead of coal, now that this local resource has become competitive, we should presume to build a nuclear power plant instead of using Sulcis coal.

8568

CSO: 5400

TWO MORE CASES OF VIRAL HEPATITIS

Sassari LA NUOVA SARDEGNA in Italian 22 Jan 80 p 8

[Text] Gavoi (g.m.s.)--The viral hepatitis epidemic is still spreading in Lodine and Gavoi. On Sunday a 74-year-old woman from Lodine was admitted to the hospital and yesterday as assistant from the state maternity school in this hamlet who, however, resides in Gavoi. For the first time since the epidemic started, hepatitis has struck two adults. In fact, the Lodine youth, admitted to the hospital about 1 month ago with the diagnosis of hepatitis, turned out, instead, to have colicystitis.

Meanwhile, there is also concern over the problem in Fonni after the admittance of a 36-year-old woman to the hospital. Moreover, in the highly situated village of Barbagia there is great fear of infectious diseases since the tuberculosis epidemic ran rampant a few years ago. Besides, hepatitis is still more frightening, for, if it is not checked right in the beginning, it can truly spread like an oil stain if it finds a particularly favorable environment such as the many existing cattle barns to be found in the country's historic town. About 2,000 head of livestock, among which are many pigs, seem to be kept in the built-up area.

Within the last few days, the mayor and council had already ordered certain precautionary measures to be taken specifically to offset the danger of a possible epidemic in Gavoi and Lodine. However, if other cases are discovered, the measures will apply to all sectors of the population and will especially lead to the elimination of the barns.

Meanwhile, Gavoi's town council, who in recent days received the visit of a delegation from the PCI's health committee, headed by Giovanni Berlinguer, will meet today with the chairman of the regional council and assessors of the ministries of health, public works and ecology. They will propose a plan for overall housecleaning to be carried out by all residents of Gavoi and Lodine at a cost of about 700 million lire.

8568

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

EL TOR-INABA CHOLERA GERMS CONFIRMED--Fukushima, 4 Mar (KYODO)--A 33-year-old company employee has been isolated in a hospital here after El Tor-Inaba type cholera germs were detected, the Fukushima prefectural health authorities reported Tuesday. The germ carrier, who lives in Koriyama in Fukushima Prefecture, returned home on February 27 after a five-day sightseeing tour of Malaysia and Singapore with about 300 other employees of his company, they said. This brought to five the number of detected cholera germ carriers so far this year in Fukushima Prefecture. The authorities were hurriedly conducting health checks on his family members and follow-up checks on those who traveled with him. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English no time given 4 Mar 80 OW]

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

SAVANNAKHET MALARIA WORK--In 1979 the public health cadres and workers of [Meuang] Song Khon District of Savannakhet Province emulatively carried out their mobile operations at various production bases and localities throughout the district in order to bring to reality Ministry [of Public Health] instructions which hold disease control as fundamental and effective prevention of diseases as important. During the said period, these workers, examined and distributed medicine to a total of 26,889 persons, examined for malaria 1,172 individuals, expanded the public health network built 5 canton medical clinics and trained 53 medics and midwives. In the cadres at the district hospital alone responsibly treated patients and allowed them to stay at the hospital until they were totally recovered. Throughout this period the above public health workers treated over 500 patients, performed 40 normal operations, gave physical examinations, and assisted in over 700 childbirths. Furthermore, they efficiently endeavored to increase production and animal husbandry. [Excerpt] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 22 Dec 79 p A5] 9013

SAVANNAKHET HEALTH WORK--Since January of this year of 1980 the medical cadres of [Tasseng] Banna Canton, [Meuang] Outhoumphon District of Savannakhet Province have been determinedly providing medical care and treatment to the multi-ethnic population in the canton. This operation aims at insuring the people's health so that they are strong enough to play a part in boosting production and in order for them to gradually build and strengthen the new socialist system. During this period the above cadres checked for diseases and distributed medicine to 2,800 recipients. In conjunction with the medical treatment given to the multi-ethnic population at the hospital, these cadres dispatched teams of medical staffers to various production bases where they gave vaccinations against cholera to over 2,900 persons. They also widely disseminated techniques of the "three-clean" hygiene to the people. In addition, they succeeded in training 112 "three-clean" families. [Excerpt] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 24 Dec 79 p A4] 9013

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

POLIO ERADICATION CAMPAIGN--The Malawi Government will from next month, April embark on an intensive polio eradication campaign, the London based Dr Nicholas Ward who is the Medical Officer for polio campaign with the Save the Children Fund has said here. Speaking before departure Dr Nicholas Ward revealed that the ten-year polio eradication programme will be well funded by the Save the Children Fund and the country's own funds. "For the first year of the programme the SCF will spend half a million pound sterling," he added. Dr Ward said that the preparatory surveys have been finalised and that the SCF will also be sending into the country three experts, Mr G. Sale, Mr S. Frost and Mr P. Crouch. Dr Ward explained that there was every hope of success in the project "If the world has managed to eradicate smallpox, I see no reason that we should fail to get rid of polio in this country," he added. The Save the Children Fund said Dr Ward, has all the support by the European Economic Commission (EEC). He said the surveys which had been carried out in the districts of Blantyre, Zomba and Lilongwe had been successful. "Even the very vital problem of storage of vaccine facilities, has been solved," said Dr Ward. Dr Ward who was in the country for a week's visit, will also be visiting Lesotho and Swaziland on a similar mission.--MANA [Text] [Blantyre DAILY TIMES in English 6 Mar 80 p 5]

CSO: 5400

CHILDREN'S IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM LAUNCHED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Feb 80 p 6

[Text]

GUJRANWALA, Feb. 27: A five-year programme on immunisation has been started in the province to protect children from six communicable diseases, said Brig. (Retd.) Atta Mohammad, Punjab Governor's Adviser for Health.

He was addressing the people before inaugurating basic health units at Hordó Varpal and Vocal Sindhuan in Gujranwala District on Tuesday, according to a handout.

The Adviser said according to an estimate, 17,36,000 children suffer from communicable diseases like measles, diphtheria, tetanus, typhus, polio and tuberculosis and out of these, about 1.37 lakh children die. This programme, he said, would reduce about 90 per cent morbidity and mortality rate among children.

The Health adviser said so far

88 centres had been established and these centres existed in all the district headquarter hospitals and towns.

During the second year the programme would be expanded to other cities also. In the next three years, one third population of the rural areas would be taken up every year covering the whole province in five years, he said.

The children he said are a great national asset and the parents should get them immunised against various diseases from the centres and help the government in bettering the national health.

The Deputy Director Health Services speaking on the occasion said about Rs. 3.73 crore were being spent on various health schemes in the division. —PFI

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

JAUNDICE DEATHS REPORTED--New Delhi, Feb. 21: A jaundice epidemic raging in Kashmir has claimed seven lives, a Press report said on Tuesday. Hardest hit is the Sapore region, popularly known as the Fruit Bowl of the valley, close to the border with Pakistan, the National Herald newspaper said. Medical teams touring the stricken area said the disease was transmitted by polluted drinking water. An official spokesman said the State is tackling the disease on a "war-footing".--UPI [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 22 Feb 80 p 6]

CSO: 5400

PHILIPPINES

TEN PROVINCES LAUNCH ANTI-TB DRIVE

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 3 Mar 80 p 3

[Text] A region-wide crash control program against tuberculosis--considered to be the No. 2 killer disease in the country--has been launched simultaneously in 10 Southern Tagalog provinces by the Ministry of Health-Region IV.

Phase I of the program provides for the mass BCG (Bacillus Calmette-Guerin) immunization of children aged three months to six years old.

Phase II involves the actual detection of cases through sputum microscopy of individuals suspected to have developed the diseases, identification of their contacts and putting them altogether under active treatment.

Under Phase II, the MOH will set up a microscopy center in each municipality and conduct a house-to-house survey of symptomatics and delivery of medicines.

Phase III, on the other hand, involves 90 percent treatment completion of cases and chemoprophylaxis (prevention of disease by means of drug), detection and treatment of subsequent cases and BCG immunization of children reaching the age of three months.

Covered by the MOH TB control program are the provinces of Aurora, Rizal, Cavite, Palawan, Quezon, Mindoro Occidental, Mindoro Oriental, Romblon, Laguna and Batangas.

Health Director Edilberto Fernando said provincial immunization teams composed of the regional TB staff and nursing supervisors, provincial health personnel, rural health units and underboard medical and nursing graduates undergoing the one-month rural health practice program have been organized to immunization teams.

Fernando said the TB control program was launched earlier in Marinduque as a pilot project where it was successfully conducted in six towns by organized immunization teams.

Fernando described the project as a "bayanihan" venture since it involved the participation of the local government and barangay volunteers.

NEW LEPROSY VACCINE MAY REVOLUTIONIZE TREATMENT

Dakar LE SOLEIL in French 14 Feb 80 pp 1, 7

[Article by Ibrahima Gaye]

[Text] The fight against leprosy seems about to take a new turn with the therapy perfected by Professor Yvette Pares and her team at the Center for Biological Research in Leprosy of the University of Dakar. After ten years of research the results of the team's work, if confirmed, will revolutionize treatment that is at present somewhat weakened because the bacilli are beginning to be accustomed to the treatment still being used.

In any case, Professor Pares has perfected a new polyvalent vaccine applicable to several forms of leprosy. The research was concerned originally with the traditional pharmacopeia. Within that framework several anti-leprosy plants were inventoried. The process of testing them produced convincing results.

The work which has been conducted over the past ten years by the Center for Biological Research in Leprosy of the University of Dakar could revolutionize the treatment of the disease, if the results are confirmed. Professor Yvette Pares, who conducted the research, does not doubt it at all.

The work of her team was oriented on the one hand toward creating a more effective vaccine and on the other hand toward improving the treatment of leprosy.

Microbacteriological research, which is long and trying, may turn out to be negative at the end of decades. But it is rendered all the more urgent because on the one hand the classic treatments were often not very effective after ten years, the Hansen bacillus becoming especially resistant with the passing of time, and on the other hand the patients eventually become tired and so resort more frequently to the traditional pharmacopeia.

So far it has been thought that the Hansen bacillus existed only in a single form--the acid fast bacillus, cyanophil form, which does not stain under laboratory manipulation. Beginning with establishing that there exists a spotted leprosy and a leprosy characterized by skin lesions, Professor Pares advances the hypothesis that there are probably two forms of leprosy bacilli.

Colonies obtained in culture from pathologic products of leprosy, which develop abundantly, are minutely studied. According to the University of Dakar Bacteriological Research Laboratory, it may be stated in the present stage of the work that these colonies correspond to the *Mycobacterium leprae*. With any margin for error taken into account, there is a more than 90 percent chance that this will be the case.

In addition, the research is determining that there are exploded forms of the acid-fast bacillus. They are "filtrable forms," capable of passing through 0.2-micron filters, and are evolving. These filtrable forms are the most dangerous.

To cure the leper, therefore, it is not enough to destroy the acid-fast bacillus, but also, and especially, it is necessary to attack its filtrable forms. Reforming the life cycle of the *Mycobacterium leprae* should thus make possible a more effective and permanent fight against leprosy.

Although the research has come to an end, the Center for Biological Research in Leprosy of the University of Dakar has perfected a polyvalent vaccine that makes it possible not only to destroy the various forms of leprosy bacilli, but it can be used indiscriminately against spotted leprosy and the leprosy characterized by skin lesions.

The other orientation of the work of Professor Pares' team is improvement in the treatment of leprosy.

All the plants reputed to be anti-leprous, used by traditional healers, have been inventoried and positively tested (see article by I. Fall). The methods of preparing and determining the doses to be administered are currently under study, and will be applied to patients under the joint supervision of physicians and traditional healers. Then it will be a matter of replacing the customary traditional prescriptions (two glasses of a macerated substance per day, for example) with galenic measures, notably the manufacture of tablets.

The results obtained in this area are absolutely convincing, according to Professor Yvette Pares.

In any case, with the work coming to an end, at the Center for Research, the University of Dakar has every chance of becoming the preferred location for the fight against leprosy. There is no doubt the stakes are enormous.

Moreover, Professor Pares' team has hardly operated without resistance. Constant difficulties had to be conquered, says the boss of the Dakar center, in the face of the machinations of the foreign medical mandarinat which were patiently endured for ten years. "Now that we are ready to conclude," says Professor Pares, "it is no longer possible not to defend ourselves."

The next mycobacteriological meeting, to be organized in Dakar, will be the proper occasion for a scientific report on the work of the Center for Research of the University of Dakar, and discussion of it.

BRIEFS

CHOLERA IN ARUSHA--Arusha--Cholera has killed 8 people since its outbreak in Arusha 4 weeks ago, and 63 other cholera suspects are undergoing treatment. The chairman of Arusha town council, Ndugu Ismail Teow, has called on the town councillors to work in close cooperation with officials of the Ministry of Health to insure complete eradication of the disease. He called on the town residents to clean up their environment, both at home and at work. Last week the Arusha regional authorities banned the transportation of all commodities, especially foodstuffs, out of the region, after it was discovered that cholera had broken out in Naru Muru, Arusha and Monduli districts. [Text] [LD182056 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1600 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD/EA]

CSO: 5400

THAILAND

INCREASING INCIDENCE OF SKIN DISEASES TIED TO POLLUTION

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 16 Feb 80 p 3

[Article: "The Environment Is Polluted. Many People in Bangkok Are Afflicted With Skin Diseases"]

[Text] It has been disclosed that more and more people are becoming afflicted with skin diseases, which is the second leading disease after diseases of the digestive system. For the most part, those afflicted with skin diseases live in Bangkok and this stems from the fact that the environment here is polluted.

Dr Renu Khotcharat, the director of the Skin Disease Institute, stated that the rate of affliction with skin diseases is increasing. It is now the second most common disease, second only to diseases of the digestive system. What is clear is that the number of people coming to the Skin Disease Institute has increased sharply. In 1977, only 69,000 people came for treatment. In 1978, the number increased to 70,000 and in 1979 the number reached 76,000. Of this number, approximately 30 percent come from various outlying provinces and this shows that most of the people afflicted with skin diseases are people who live in Bangkok. This may be because people who live in Bangkok must contend with the problem of a polluted environment more than people who live in outlying provinces.

The director of the Skin Disease Institute stated that the fact that more and more people are becoming afflicted with skin diseases may be because of three things. First, the population is increasing in size and, therefore, the number of people who can become afflicted with skin diseases has increased. Second, the people have a greater knowledge and

understanding about disease prevention. When they are sick or when they suspect they have some disease, they come for an examination and for treatment. Third, there is greater contact with chemicals used in various types of production, whether standards have been set or not.

According to the statistics, it appears that 30 percent of those afflicted with skin diseases are afflicted because of allergies to chemicals. Besides this, skin diseases are caused by viruses, funguses, bacteria and parasites. There are diseases of the sweat and fat glands, diseases of the fingernails and diseases of the hair, for example.

Asked about the treatment of and research on skin diseases, Dr Renu stated that the Skin Disease Institute makes examinations and provides treatment. It provides outpatient service to approximately 400 people a day and has beds for 70 patients at the institute. Because the number of people coming for examinations and treatment has increased continually, a proposal to expand the institute has been submitted to the Medical Department. Another important task of the Skin Disease Institute is the holding of skin disease training seminars for doctors from the Central Hospital, provincial hospitals and district hospitals so they will be capable of examining and treating people afflicted with skin diseases. This is one way to expand skin disease treatment services in the provinces.

11943
CSO: 5400

THAILAND

POLIO REPORTED AT KAMPUCHEAN HOLDING CENTER

BK040939 Hong Kong AFP in English 0453 GMT 4 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Bangkok, 4 Mar (AFP)--Several cases of polio have broken out among 111,500 Khmers at the giant Cambodian holding centre of Khao I Dang on Thailand's eastern border, relief officials reported today. They said that 16 cases so far are being treated in the camp. Both children and adults have come down with the disease.

The cause of the outbreak has not yet been established, but the camp is suffering from a serious shortage of water. Trucks have to carry in water to Khao I Dang daily.

Officials said today that none of the cases is critical, and they are all receiving medical treatment at the camp. Relief workers have been inoculated, and newsmen and other visitors have been warned to take precautions before going into Khao I Dang.

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

CHOLERA CASUALTIES--According to the public health minister, this year to date 713 people in the country have contracted cholera and 16 have died. Of these figures, Bangkok citizens accounted for 190, including 1 dead. [Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 22 Feb 80 BK]

MOBILE MEDICAL UNIT--Army field doctors have found that many people in Srisaket are afflicted with Malaria. Doctors and nurses have hurriedly been sent to help the people in every locality. In Srisaket, the army field doctors have gone to help treat the people in the area of responsibility of the Srisaket Province mobile development unit. During a period of 19 days, from 4 to 25 January, with Dr Suchin Ubonwat, Colonel, in command, the unit was able to help and treat the sick in nine districts and one subdistrict, totalling 16 villages. It was found that many people are afflicted with malaria. The mobile medical unit mentioned above is composed of doctors, nurses and people concerned for a total of 35 people. The unit treats people in the villages of Phak Phaeo and Nonsing-khai in Kanthararom district, Kanthrom and Khunhan in Khunhan district, Khamphua and Roengrom in Khukhan district, Bung and Khuyai in Prangkhu district, Phong and Putniam in Banphraibung district, Takon and Nonglek in Uthumphornphisai district, Prasat in Huaithapthan subdistrict, Phakcha in Yangchumnoi district and Pua in Srisaket district. The doctors have found that most of the people who come for treatment are afflicted with malaria, diarrhea, heart disease, malnutrition, parasitic infections, tuberculosis and tooth decay. On the average, 860 people come for treatment each day. [Text] [Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 14 Feb 80 pp 7, 11] 11943

LEPROSY RATE--The leprosy rate in the country has decreased from 5 per 1,000 people to only 0.8 per 1,000 people. This was disclosed by Dr Bunsom Martin, the minister of public health. He stated that no problems are being encountered in controlling leprosy. From an examination of the data, it has been learned that, throughout the country, there were 140,000 people afflicted with leprosy. Of this number, 60 percent lived in the northeast. And carrying on a search to find people afflicted with this disease and treating them at home made it possible to reduce the leprosy rate to only 110,300 cases by the end of 1979. Of this number, 63,650 have been cured or brought out of the contagious stage. [Text] [Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 19 Jan 80 p 3] 11943

BRIEFS

SLEEPING SICKNESS--Nairobi--Sleeping sickness has broken out in several areas of eastern Uganda, Radio Uganda said yesterday. Minister of Regional Cooperation Yoweri Museveni called on scientific officers of Uganda's Trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness) research organization near Tororo, eastern Uganda, to deploy all their resources to control it. Dr Mwamba, the organization's director, told the minister that sleeping sickness had already spread to Jinja, Uganda's second largest town, and to Mukono district, between Jinja and Kampala. Thousands of Ugandans died from sleeping sickness in areas along the northern shore of Lake Victoria in the early years of the century. As a result, the then British administration in Uganda closed the entire area. They were only reopened in the 1950's, with strict health controls designed to prevent a revival of sleeping sickness. Ugandans say health controls were not fully enforced during the eight years of Idi Amin's rule which ended last year. [Text] [Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 26 Jan 80 p 6]

CSO: 5400

ETHIOPIA, SUDAN SIGN AGREEMENT ON DISEASES

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 10 Feb 80 pp 1, 4

[Excerpt] Addis Ababa (ENA)--An agreement between Ethiopia and the Sudan for the joint prevention of contagious animal diseases along their common border has been signed here this week.

The agreement was signed between the Ministry of Agriculture and a Sudanese veterinarian delegation which recently visited Ethiopia and provides for the control of the spread of bovine pleuro-pneumonia along the borders of the two sisterly neighbouring countries. The project is to be financed with the assistance of the European Economic Community.

The agreement was initialled on the Ethiopian side by Comrade Dr. Assefa Wolde-Giorgis, head of the Animal Resources Department in the Ministry of Agriculture, and on the Sudanese by Dr Mohamed El-Hassan El-Fadil, Director of the Epizootic Diseases Control who also headed the veterinarian delegation from Sudan which was on visit here.

Dr Mohamed El-Fadil said he was pleased with the signing of the agreement between the two sisterly countries and expressed hope that the two countries would be able to withstand the spread of contagious bovine disease through joint endeavours. He also said that members of his delegation were highly impressed with what they saw here during their visit to the model abattoir, the Assistant Veterinarians' School and the Agricultural Research Centre--all at Debre Zeit.

CSO: 3400

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

LIVESTOCK VACCINATIONS--More than 55,000 livestocka have been cured and vaccinated at the Kandahar Animal Clinic during last month. A source of the Veterinary Department of the province said that more than 41,000 livestocka have been vaccinated and 11,000 have been cured. [Text] [Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 21 Feb 80 p 1]

CATTLE VACCINATIONS--More than 140,000 cattles have been vaccinated and cured by the Veterinary Department Clinic of Helmand province. [Text] [Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 26 Feb 80 p 4]

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

FEBRUARY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STATISTICS--The national directorate for the organization of agricultural production published a map presenting the statistics in the livestock sector for the month of February. The map reports that 55 cases of contagious cattle peripneumonia were registered in the provinces of Huila and Kwanza-Sul, 25 cases of hematic carbuncle were detected in Huila and Malanje, as well as 29 cases of symptomatic carbuncle, and one focus of brucellosis was registered in Kuando-Kubango. The great majority of the cases (106) were registered in the province of Huila. [Excerpt] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 13 Mar 80 p 2]

CSO: 3400

AUSTRALIA

VETERINARIANS CALL FOR STRONGER QUARANTINE MEASURES

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 11 Jan 80 p 3

[Report from Peter Diegutis, Land Editor]

[Text]

The Australian Veterinary Association Ltd wants the Queensland and Federal Governments to co-operate in strengthening the quarantine measures operating in the Torres Strait area.

This area is the weakest point in Australian quarantine defences against the introduction of exotic diseases, according to the association's president, Dr. L.J. Fulton.

He was calling for prompt government action to implement the recommendations of a report by the Standing Committee on National Resources on the adequacy of Australian quarantine measures.

The report, which was presented to Parliament in December, ranked in its importance to Australia's future with reports on forward military defence, Dr Fulton said.

One recommendation was for a joint plan by the Federal and Queensland Governments embracing customs, immigration

and quarantine to control movement in the Torres Strait.

Another was that arrangements be made with the Queensland Government to prepare for all aspects of an outbreak of screw worm fly, found in Papua New Guinea.

The traditional movement of people and animals in the Torres Strait region should be guaranteed and protected.

It was essential to develop techniques for stopping the spread of parasites and diseases.

The association also urged the adoption of other recommendations in the report.

These included a call for giving a higher priority to the completion of the national animal health laboratory; the setting up of technical committees on quarantine with neighbouring countries; formation of an Australian agricultural health service as an independent body within the Department of Primary Industry; and the need for greater quarantine surveillance at air and sea ports.

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

HORSES' RESPIRATORY DISEASE--A virus suspected of having caused some of the recent respiratory problems in horses in WA has been isolated at the Department of Agriculture's animal health laboratory. The chief veterinary officer, Mr J. M. Armstrong, said the virus, which was isolated from a foal with respiratory problems, was an adeno-virus. Blood samples collected from horses with suspected viral respiratory infection had been shown at the University of Melbourne to contain antibodies to adenovirus and rhinovirus. The viruses could manifest themselves with signs ranging from a relatively mild lung inflammation, which could prevent a horse racing to the best of his ability, to severe respiratory distress with an accompanying cough and discharging nose. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 9 Jan 80 p 100]

TUBERCULOSIS-FREE CATTLE--Canberra: Most of Australia's beef and dairy cattle producing areas were now free of bovine tuberculosis, the Department of Primary Industry said yesterday. For the first time since the national brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication campaign began in 1970, more than half the country's 185,000 herds were free of brucellosis. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 18 Jan 80 p 5]

GRASS-POISONED SHEEP--Adelaide.--Australia's worst outbreak of ryegrass poisoning has killed about 800 sheep in the midnorth of South Australia. The sheep, valued at about \$20,000, have died on 11 properties during the last fortnight in an area bounded by Burra, Saddleworth and Eudunda. On one property more than 600 sheep were killed, most of them within a week of eating infected ryegrass. The ryegrass becomes infected when invaded by an organism and a bacterium. It causes paralysis and death when eaten. So far, it is found only in South Australia and Western Australia. [Text] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 7 Jan 80 p 7]

CSO: 5400

BELIZE

BRIEFS

HOG CHOLERA DEATHS--The death toll among hogs in Belize is not due to African swine fever but to hog cholera, Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture [DIGESEPE] livestock services Dr Francisco Bobadilla Palomo told PRENSA LIBRE. He said that day before yesterday, a new center for the dangerous epizootic disease was detected, not in Belize but in Guantanamo, Cuba. "That means," he reiterated, "that in Belize we are not in danger of African swine fever. International institutions devoted to controlling diseases like these," he stressed, "warned me of the outbreak of swine fever in Cuba yesterday. That is why," he said, "the quarantine and inspection control have been intensified along the border to prevent this disease that attacks hogs from entering the country on fruit or meat." Bobadilla Palomo also said that it had been established that what has appeared in Beliza is hog cholera. [Text] [Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 15 Feb 80 p 12] 11937

CSO: 5400

REPORTAGE ON FOOT-AND-MOUTH OUTBREAK, VACCINATIONS

Farmer Cooperation Urged

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 8 Feb 80 p 2

[Article by Botselele Tlale]

[Text]

Farmers in Ngamiland have been urged to co-operate fully with a new foot and mouth vaccination campaign by ensuring that all their cattle are vaccinated.

The move follows a recent campaign which failed because some farmers made no effort to collect cattle grazing in distant areas.

The new blanket vaccination campaign was launched by the Assistant Minister of Agriculture Mr G.U.S. Mathabaphiri at a series of kgotla meetings in the North West District.

The Minister warned that unless farmers co-operate with the new campaign there would be further outbreaks of the disease and the sale of cattle would remain sus-

pended.

He said Botswana had developed a reliable and effective vaccine. But it could only be fully effective if all cattle were vaccinated.

The new three-week campaign involved nine vaccination teams and five veterinary officers from throughout the country. They will be visiting cattle crushes at the Hainaveld, Maun, Toteng, Sehithwa, Makakung, Tsau and Nokaneng.

The Minister said that if the new campaign is successful it could lead to a resumption of cattle sales within a few months.

Farmers complained that they were given short notice by Veterinary officers and that their cattle were kept at the crushes too long.

The Minister agreed to remedy these and assured farmers that notice of the campaign would be broadcast on Radio Botswana.

Outbreak Near Serule

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 21 Feb 80 p 1

[Text]

A massive vaccination campaign is to be launched in the Central District following a small outbreak of foot and mouth disease near Serule.

All movements of cattle to BMC from the Central and North Eastern District have been cancelled. And farmers now moving cattle to the railway are being urged to return them to their farms or cattle posts immediately.

Debate Quarantine has been closed and animals already in quarantine will have to remain there.

The Ministry of Agriculture has warned anyone with sick cattle to report to the nearest veterinary office without delay.

The outbreak was discovered near Topisi Siding, west of the railway line. So far there are no reports of further outbreaks in the Central District.

Mr David Finlay Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture said he was hopeful that the small outbreak could be contained. But he warned that farmers must co-operate fully with the vaccination campaign.

A press release issued by the Department of Veterinary Services says it is vitally important that all cattle are vaccinated. Farmers are requested to round up all their stock and to bring in any stray animals they find for vaccination.

All animals which have been vaccinated will be branded. And farmers will be informed when to bring their cattle in for vaccination.

Meanwhile farmers in the Southern District are being urged to keep up their quotas to BMC in Lobatse in order to maintain the supply of tongues from

which the foot and mouth vaccine is manufactured.

The Ministry of Agriculture would like to ensure a weekly quota of not less than 3,000 head of cattle until the latest outbreak is stamped out.

The closure of the Debate Quarantine Fence - cutting off all movements from the Central and North Eastern Districts - means that two thirds of the country is now cordoned off because of the disease. The North West District has been cordoned off since 1977 and another major vaccination campaign has just been completed in the area.

Central District Quotas Cancelled

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 22 Feb 80 p 1

[Text] The Ministry of Agriculture yesterday announced that in view of the outbreak of foot and mouth disease west of Topisi siding farmers in the Central District are reminded that it has been necessary to cancel all quotas for BMC for cattle from the Central District.

Thus it will not be possible to load any cattle for transport to BMC from the Central District until further notice and any farmers who had commenced trekking their cattle to the Railway line are requested to return these to their farms and cattle posts as soon as possible," a release says.

A Vaccination campaign is commencing on Sunday February 24 and farmers are requested to bring all their cattle to crushes for vaccination and branding. A detailed programme for the campaign will be published as soon as possible.

When the outbreak was made known this week, it was reported that no reports of further outbreaks had been received in the Central District. It was also hoped that the small outbreak of Topisai would be contained.

A top Ministry of Agriculture official noted that all cattle which would be vaccinated would be branded, and that farmers would be informed when to bring their cattle for vaccination.

Sales to EEC Suspended

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 25 Feb 80 p 1

[Article by Sheila Davey]

[Text] Botswana has been forced to suspend sales of meat to the EEC following the latest outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the Central District.

The move comes only a week after the signing of a new five year ACP Lome Agreement by the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr P.K. Nwako, which included an increase of 9 per cent in EEC beef quotas.

Under the new agreement Botswana should be exporting 18,916-20,000 tonnes of beef a year to Europe. But with stringent EEC quarantine regulations in force it could be several months before sales can be resumed.

The outbreak is a double blow for the Botswana Meat Commission. Not only has it lost its EEC market--half the annual export market--for the time being. But the BMC will be faced with making up the losses from a drastically reduced pool of beef. And non-EEC export markets do not offer such favourable prices.

With the closure of the Di-bete Cordon Fence cutting off the Central and North East District two thirds of Botswana is now cordoned off because of the disease.

The Ministry of Agriculture this week urged Southern District farmers to keep up their quota of beef sales to BMC in order to provide a regular supply of tongues needed to produce the vital vaccine at the Foot and Mouth Vaccine Laboratory in Gaborone.

In the meantime BMC will have to increase sales to its other markets -- mainly Angola. But even if the latest outbreak at Topisai is speedily contained it will be at least four months before sales can be resumed in the Central and North East Districts.

In the North West sales have been halted since 1977 following a number of outbreaks of the disease. A major vaccination campaign has just been completed in the area.

But the North West has suffered another body blow from the prolonged drought. Ngami-land is now the worst affected area in the country. And on Tuesday the Government's Inter-Ministerial Drought Committee gave the go ahead for the Institutional Feeding Programme to be stepped up by as much as two thirds in some areas.

The move follows reports that people in the remote Seronga area were starving because of the drought. Health officials revealed that more than five hundred people had eaten poisonous seed distributed free for planting by the Ministry of Agriculture. But no one was taken ill.

Now the North West District Council has been given the go ahead to put Seronga and the surrounding settlements on to Stage III of the Government's Drought Relief Programme. In order to reach the Seronga residents IFP relief food has to be trucked from Maun to Sepupa -- a ten hour drive -- and then be ferried across the delta to Seronga by a special Government boat -- another three hour journey.

The Government is also planning to step up labour intensive schemes throughout Ngami-land. These are expected to include road building schemes, water development, destumping fields and building fire breaks. And work is to be speeded up on construction of a new Buffalo Cordon Fence running down the west and along the south side of the delta to contain the herds of buffalo which are prime suspects as carriers of the disease.

BDC Losses

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 5 Mar 80 p 2

[Text]

The Botswana Livestock Development Corporation incurred losses of almost P782,000 over the past three years, MP's were told on Monday.

But the losses are wholly attributable to outbreaks of foot and mouth disease and in no way the result of mismanagement by the Corporation.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr W.R. Masele, said the Corporation lost P66,658 in 1977, P444,829 in 1978 and P270,557 last year.

Foot and mouth disease was to blame, he said. "The great majority of BLDC's cattle holdings are at Makalamabedi and for the last two and a half years they have not been able to sell many cattle."

In 1977 sales amounted to

P1.08m but in 1978 they were down to P86,000. Last year they rose to P175,000, he reported.

Mr Masele said a Government loan of P635,842 had been converted to equity. This meant the BLDC no longer paid interest on the loan but the Government could recover the money at a future date if the Corporation started to make a profit.

Mr Masele denied that the losses were caused by management inefficiency. "The organisation's efficiency is noted by the fact that they have succeeded in reducing their costs from P498,000 in 1977 to P403,000 in 1979, in spite of fuel and other cost rises."

Mr Masele was replying to a question from the Ramotswa MP Mr G.M. Oteng.

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

QUELEA BIRDS DAMAGE CROPS--Large Colonies of quelea birds invading the Kgatleng area are reported to be causing extensive damage to crops. At Leshibetse in the Kgatleng District, farmers are kept on their toes day and night in a bid to scare off the birds from destroying their crops. Four officers from the Ministry of Agriculture who visited the area recently have confirmed the presence of large colonies of quelea birds at Lentswe and Makuke. They say the birds at Lentswe were at a laying stage while those at Makuke have already hatched. The District Agricultural Officer (DAO) Mr S.M. Magalela says his department is considering some measures of helping farmers out of the problem. Investigations to locate the birds in some other parts of the district are said to be in progress. The quelea birds last invaded the Kgatleng District in 1978. [Text] [Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 6 Feb 80 p 2]

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

BRUCELLOSIS PREVENTION--That is the question our readers should have asked about this disease after the alert issued by the Veterinary Service through the mass media. Instead, some reacted with spreading indifference, saying this was publicity for the Bujumbura Central Dairy! In any case, the dairy does not need publicity through the medium of the Veterinary Service, for if it felt such a need it would do it itself, although to our knowledge the need is not urgent, because its market is not saturated! The Veterinary Service is simply conscious of its duty as a responsible partner assuring the consumer of animal products that satisfy the requirements of hygiene, from the production stage on. Its goal must be first to prevent any infection in man and to deliver for consumption products whose quality is above reproach. Now, obviously an efficient hygiene service for animal products affects the veterinarian first; he is the specialist most familiar with the diseases transmitted by animal products. This is why he participates in the fundamental Public Health sector. [Excerpt] [Bujumbura LE RENOUVEAU DU BURUNDI in French 18 Jan 80 p 4] 8946

CSO: 5400

STATUS REPORT ON AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

Statistics Released

FL121116 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Mar 80 FL

[Text] The Institute of Veterinary Medicine has released a report on the current situation in the areas affected by the African swine fever detected in Guantanamo in January.

According to the report, a total of 56 farms were affected. Of these, 37 are in Guantanamo, 12 in Santiago de Cuba and the rest in Holguin, Las Tunas and Camaguey. According to the Institute of Veterinary Medicine, these areas of the disease (presumably outside Guantanamo and Santiago) are of a secondary nature as a result of the movement of hogs or contacts with the affected zone and this has allowed the rapid elimination and control of the disease in these provinces. The control measures undertaken on the national territory, emphasizes the report, are designed to eliminate the virus wherever it appears and protect unaffected areas to prevent penetration of the disease.

Control Measures, Virus Characteristics

FL121328 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1241 GMT 12 Mar 80 FL

[Excerpt] To date, farms in only four municipalities of Santiago de Cuba Province have been affected. These farms maintain marketing relations and close socioeconomic ties with Guantanamo. The rest of the pockets of the disease are of a secondary nature as a result of the movement of hogs or contacts with the affected zone.

The current outbreak of African swine fever has clinical manifestations quite different from the one that occurred in Havana in 1971. The studies to characterize and isolate the virus show the virus to be similar to the one currently spreading in South America and areas of the Caribbean.

Given the characteristics of the resistance of the virus in the atmosphere, it has been described as being able to conserve its virulence in the infectious blood up to 112 days. In fresh meat, the swine fever virus maintains its virulence up to 180 days, and in preserved meat up to 105 days.

The Institute of Veterinary Medicine report on the status of the swine fever outbreak in Guantanamo Province outlines the measures taken in all territories threatened and not affected. At the same time, and aware of the responsibility it must assume, the Republic of Cuba, just as in the previous outbreak, has established rigorous control measures to prevent the possible spread of the disease from Cuban territory to other countries with which it maintains trade relations.

The report adds that no outbreaks have occurred in areas other than in the eastern zone of the country.

Preliminary studies show that contacts with hog herds in Haiti--where the disease has prevailed since last year--by immigrants from that Antillean country are one of the possible ways that the disease spreads.

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

CATTLE GIVEN TREATMENT, VACCINATION--Harar(ENA)--A total of 600,000 heads of cattle in Hararghe region have received treatment and been vaccinated against various animal diseases as of September last year, it was disclosed by Comrade Zeleke Sileshi, Administrator of the Jijiga Livestock Resources Development Project. Those which received vaccinations total to 212,843. The remaining received treatments of various kinds, according to the administrator. Meanwhile, it was learnt that six associations concerned with livestock rearing had been recently established in Harshen and Kebri Beyah districts in Hararghe region. Preparations are also underway to set up similar associations in Harti Sheik and Dible districts in the same region. Comrade Zeleke further revealed that the Jijiga Livestock Resources Development Project helps peasants in different ways. He pointed out that 317 plow-oxen bought by the project have been distributed to needy peasants on credit basis. [Text] [Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 17 Feb 80 p 6]

CSO: 5400

HOG CHOLERA IN NORTHERN ZONE OF COUNTRY

San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Feb 80 p 50

[Article by Carlos Moya Posas]

[Text] The entire northern coast of Honduras (from Descombro, Atlantida to San Pedro Sula, Cortes) has been quarantined by authorities of Animal Health, an office of the Ministry of Natural Resources, because of the outbreak of hog cholera which is decimating all the hogs on the Atlantic coast.

Such cities as La Ceiba, El Progreso and lately San Pedro Sula, where an outbreak of this disease which only attacks hogs was recently detected, can neither receive nor sell to other communities hog meat or animals as a result of the resolution adopted by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

In La Ceiba, the public and private wholesale meat markets and meat processing plants are duly controlled by the Animal Health Program [PSA] not allowing slaughter, which has brought unpleasant consequences for homes and restaurants.

The measures for controlling hog cholera are powerful, and PSA agronomists accompanied by FUSEP agents are stationed on bridges, land and sea terminals and highways, to prevent the entry of this meat into local markets.

They are also fumigating public and private slaughterhouses and giving pertinent instructions to assistant mayors and district leaders in the villages and hamlets so that they in turn can instruct the people in the measures to take.

Hog cholera is a highly contagious, acute disease, caused by a virus and frequently fatal to hogs.

In the United States, it was first recognized in 1883 and for many years it caused annual losses of up to 50 million dollars. Only hogs are naturally susceptible to hog cholera. It poses no threat to humans, and although clinically it is very similar to African swine fever, cholera is caused by a very different virus.

The clinical symptoms of the disease vary with the severity of the infection. A very virulent strain can affect all the susceptible hogs of any age, causing a high fever and up to 90-percent mortality in the affected animals, between 3 to 19 days after initial contamination.

There Is No African Swine Fever

Regional Director of Natural Resources engineer Victor Dackaret and Director of PSA in the same region Luis Avilez told LA PRENSA that in our country there is no African swine fever, but according to analyses in the Ministry of Natural Resources clinics and laboratories in Tegucigalpa, "it is an outbreak of hog cholera. This report," they said, "is extremely important because having to sacrifice every hog in the nation would mean disaster for our economy."

"In any case, as far as we can tell, if the measures announced by the PSA members are not taken, the impact on our economy will be enormous, since in Department Atlantida alone, there is an average of 24,800 hogs which could perish in a relatively short time."

[Photo Caption] Regional Director of Natural Resources engineer Victor Dackaret. He and Director of the Atlantic Coast Animal Health Program Dr Luis Avilez expressed great concern over the outbreak of cholera and asked for the cooperation of the communications media and the public in general.

11937

CSO: 5400

CONTAGIOUS ECTHYMA ATTACKS GOATS IN BALI

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 24 Dec 79 p 8

[Article: "Dangkalan Disease Attacks Goats in Bali"]

[Excerpts] The "dangkalan" disease or contagiosa ecthyma (orf virus) has attacked 972 goats in Bali. Most of the cases occurred in Kubu Subdistrict (Karangasem), where 943 goats succumbed to the disease. Twenty-two in Gerokgak Subdistrict (Buleleng), 6 in Kediri Subdistrict (Tabanan), and one in Abian Semal Subdistrict (Badung) succumbed to the disease.

Veterinary Dr Wayan Masudana, chief of the Animal Husbandry Service for Bali Province, noted that the disease, caused by a virus in the smallpox family, did not cause death unless complications developed. The virus can also attack humans.

Clinical signs observed on victims of the orf virus are lesion-like nodules (blisters) up to 3 centimeters in diameter. Some nodules are dry and filled with pus and others are hemorrhagic.

The lesions are found on almost all areas of the upper and lower lips; some even extend to the nose. The lesions may spread to the mucosa buccalis and gingiva (the walls of the mouth and the gums).

Generally the victims recover spontaneously without receiving any medication although a vaccine prepared by the Livestock Disease Research Clinic is being used to protect goats still free of the disease.

6804

CSO: 5400

DRUG CURING PLEURO-PNEUMONIA ANNOUNCED

Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 1 Mar 80 p 3

[Text]

MUGUGA Research Station has developed a drug to cure the contagious pleuro-pneumonia disease which attacks goats and sheep.

This was disclosed yesterday by an Assistant Minister for Livestock Development, Mr. Martin Shikuku, when he addressed a news conference in his office.

Mr. Shikuku said the research station had also discovered that the disease could be treated, completely cured and even immunized against.

The station's director, Dr. W. Masiga, who is also chairman of the Veterinary Association, will present a paper on the discovery.

It is believed that this is the first time for the drug to be developed.

Mr. Shikuku, who had earlier toured the research station, said his Ministry was working in conjunction with the Water Development Ministry to make water available for livestock.

The Assistant Minister said he had also requested the station's research officers to look for a way to develop livestock feeds locally from indigenous raw materials.

The Ministry, Mr. Shikuku said, intended to reduce calf mortality from 17 per cent to 12 per cent during the current development period.

He said the present cow mortality of 12 per cent would be reduced to 9 per cent during the plan period. "Our aim is to have a zero per cent mortality," Mr. Shikuku said.

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

HEAVY LIVESTOCK TOLL--Hyderabad, Feb. 20: While a parasitic disease is taking a heavy toll of livestock in Dadu, Thatta and Larkana districts, the provincial Animal Husbandry authorities appear reluctant or unable to do anything about. According to the Director (Animal Husbandry) the disease is confined to low-lying and swampy areas of the three districts; and the only possible way of preventing its spread was to keep the livestock away from marshes and swamps. This, the Director opined, was not possible considering the countless marshes and swamps in the affected areas. His Department, he said, was treating the affected animals according to its "limited resources". Eradication, he added, was "not possible". The disease, meanwhile, is assuming epidemic form. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 21 Feb 80 p 5]

VACCINE FOR NEWCASTLE DISEASE DEVELOPED--20 February--A new vaccine in tablet form, has been developed in Pakistan at the Poultry Vaccine Production Centre for preventing New Castle and Ranikhet Diseases, especially in the rural areas. This was disclosed here today during the visit of Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture and Co-operatives, Rear Admiral M. F. Janjua, to the Poultry Research Institute at Korangi. The Minister, who went round various sections of the Institute, lauded the services of the scientists working at the Vaccine Production Centre and expressed his confidence that they would keep up their efforts. He said the Government attached great importance to the development of the poultry industry in the country with the active participation of the private sector. A National Poultry Board, he added, had been set up to prepare a comprehensive plan for the rapid growth of this sector on scientific lines. A number of concessions and incentives have been provided to investors of this industry with the main objective of expanding this vital field. He, however, pointed out that self-reliance was essential for achieving long-term objectives and no business could run on subsidies for ever. The Minister assured that Government agencies would continue to provide diagnostic and clinical facilities to the people for the development of poultry farms in all parts of the country.

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER--The agriculture ministry is undertaking measures to prevent the outbreak of African swine fever in the country. It has strengthened the quarantine posts at the airports, port and border areas and will also increase the number of its inspectors. [Text] [Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 6 Mar 80 PA]

CSO: 5400

YUGOSLAVIA

BRIEFS

RABIES SPREADING IN SLOVENIA--Celje, 10 March--Some 20 cases of rabies among wild animals were recorded in the Celje region since the beginning of this year. Foxes infected with rabies were killed in the Mozirje, Valenje and Zalec communes. Rabies also are spreading toward Celje from Croatia. The authorities have already prepared a number of measures to combat rabies. Foxes are being hunted and it is expected that some 200 of them will be killed. A number of lectures will also be given to acquaint the people in the area with the danger of rabies and the steps to be taken if one is bitten by a rabid animal. However, in view of the preventive steps taken and the good health service in the area, physicians do not think there should be any deaths among people from rabies. [Srecko Srot] [AU151107 Ljubljana DELO in Slovenian 11 Mar 80 p 12 AU]

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

RABIES VACCINATIONS--From an authorized source comes news that, as proposed by the regional veterinarian, Shaba Region Commissioner Gen Singa Boyenge Mosambay has just ordered an antirabies vaccination campaign, covering the entire region, in accordance with his decree No 703/10/007/02/16.03H/79 of 10 March 1979, rabies having broken out in Shaba. In the city of Lubumbashi in particular Citizen Ilunga wa Makonga Tanglzya, the subregional veterinarian who gave this information to the press, has just issued an important order to the local veterinary laboratory. It is believed the vaccination campaign will probably begin late this month. Taking advantage of the opportunity, the subregional veterinarian is appealing to all owners of dogs and cats, so that all useful provisions may be made to enable the veterinary agents in charge of the vaccinations to carry out their task easily. Citizen Ilunga stated, moreover, that the vaccination will be preceded by registration, to determine the statistics pertaining to canines and felines not vaccinated last year. [Text] [Lubumbashi MJUMBE: LE QUOTIDIEN DU SHABA in French 8, 9 Jan 80 p 8] 8946

CSO: 5400

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

INSECT PLAGUE THREAT--The threat of another grasshopper plague is worrying station-owners between Broome and Port Hedland. Grasshoppers have started hatching "in millions" at Anna Plains Station about 245km south-west of Broome. The Agriculture Protection Board's Port Hedland officer, Mr Mike Boothey, said last week that he had recently inspected the area and had sent samples of the insects to Perth for examination. He said that about 140 sq km of country was being denuded and set back by the insects. Mr Boothey said that the worrying aspect of the situation was the increasing frequency with which the plagues are occurring. Station-owners could be faced with their third plague in three years, whereas they used to occur only about two or three times in a century. He said that the situation was being monitored and was under investigation by the Department of Agriculture entomology branch. [Excerpts] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 8 Jan 80, Supp., p 11]

POTATO DISEASE IDENTIFIED--A potato disease that has been positively identified in WA for the first time has caused extensive damage on two properties at Manjimup. The disease is known as lack-leg which usually results in the tubers rotting in the ground. An Agriculture Department survey has found that many other crops have been affected in a minor degree. Miss Olga Goss, the acting principal plant pathologist with the department, said yesterday that crops in the South-West had shown similar symptoms for several years. But this was the first time the economic losses had occurred. [Excerpts] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 31 Jan 80 p 11]

CSO: 5400

BLUE MOLD DISEASE FORCES NATION TO IMPORT TOBACCO

FL141422 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1325 GMT 14 Mar 80 FL

[Text] Food Industry Vice Minister Daniel Solana has announced that cigarette sales to the population will be maintained at current levels despite the damage caused by the blue mold disease. He asserted that the basic ration as well as unregulated sales in any quantity of dark and light tobacco cigarettes is guaranteed.

Regarding cigars, he announced that regular established supplies distributed to stores will be maintained and that only unregulated sales are eliminated.

Jaime Mas, director general of the Foreign Trade Ministry's export enterprise CUBATABACO, said our country has been forced to import tobacco and suspend the export of leaf tobacco. He added that cigar exports will be reduced because the famous "Habanos" are made only with leaves cultivated in our country.

It also was announced at the press conference held at the party Central Committee offices that Cuba has imported a new chemical product in the necessary quantity to use it against the blue mold. It was emphasized that this new chemical product has been used to control blue mold with good results.

It was reported that despite all efforts made, the levels of the current tobacco harvest are extraordinarily low because the disease had spread to almost all the country's tobacco fields. Lastly, it was reiterated that despite the blue mold disease and its extremely grave consequences, our people are guaranteed all their basic regulated rations of cigarettes and cigars and that only unregulated sales of cigars are eliminated.

CSO: 5400

HONDURAS

BRIEFS

BLUE MOLD DISEASE--Tegucigalpa, 9 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--It was learned here today that the Honduran tobacco plantations are affected by the blue mold disease. It is believed that the disease came from Nicaragua, where, in turn, it was originally brought in the seeds that came from Cuba. [PA180430 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1850 GMT 9 Mar 80 PA]

CSO: 5400

MEXICO

PLANS LAID TO STAVE OFF COFFEE RUST

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 25 Feb 80 p 1-A, 8-A

[Article by Bertha Becerra]

[Text] The National Program Against the Coffee Rust was established by presidential order early this year. It calls for investments of 4.853 billion pesos in 1980 to protect the nation's coffee crop from an attack by the rust that is only 400 kilometers as the crow flies from the country's leading producing zone, the Soconusco in Chiapas.

The strategy of the National Program Against Coffee Rust includes keeping the disease out of Mexico for as long as possible, support for the international agreements to control it, improvement of plantations and encouraging scientific methods in coffee-growing areas to dampen the impact of the rust, should it appear.

In an interview, the director general of Plant Disease Control, Jorge Gutierrez Samperio, an engineer, also reported:

The financing of this program, in which President Lopez-Portillo is very interested, means spending 5 centavos to generate 1 peso in the form of output obtained from coffee growers, spending 3 centavos to prevent the loss of 1 peso from rust-caused damages, investing 5 centavos to generate 1 peso in foreign exchange and spending 12 centavos to collect 1 peso in taxes.

The program is basically designed to prevent and, when appropriate, to combat the coffee rust. It calls for actions to protect and improve national coffee growing to come up with a successful solution to the problem that this disease entails for the country.

Gutierrez Samperio reported that coffee growing is a very important activity in our agricultural sector. It plays a major role in providing the country with foreign exchange. Moreover, it is an important source of agricultural jobs, and more than two million Mexicans depend on it.

Coffee is grown in 370 municipalities and 2,147 ejidos, communities and associations in 12 states of the nation. At present, 419,500 hectares are under cultivation by 120,500 growers.

The states of Chiapas, Veracruz and Oaxaca produce 64 percent of the national crop and plant 71 percent of it in all.

With regard to the marked polarization of production units, the plant disease control director of the SARH [Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources] reported that 98,000 growers account for 81 percent of total output and hold 35 percent of the area under cultivation, or 147,000 hectares. The average size farm is 1.5 hectares.

He said that exports over the last decade have been sizable. They rose from 1.6 million sacks in 1969-1970 to 3.1 million in 1978-1979, with a value of 13.4 billion pesos.

Coffee is our leading farm export, representing 30 percent of the country's total farm sales overseas.

Coffee production generates more than 50 million man-days a year, providing jobs to a half million farm workers. More than two million Mexicans depend on this activity.

In view of all this, the coffee rust poses a very serious threat.

Rust, the engineer explained, is the most destructive disease of coffee plants and is caused by the "hemileia vastatrix, berk y br" fungus.

The fungus attacks foliage and causes yellow-orange spots on leaves. Such damage weakens the leaves, causing them to fall off. It also brings on physiological imbalances that reduce the crop. In successive attacks the rust can kill a plant.

He said that coffee plantations in Mexico offer favorable conditions for the development of the disease.

In the Americas, he went on to say, the rust was detected for the first time in Brazil in 1970. Over a period of 2 years it spread throughout its coffee growing areas. The rust hit Argentina and Paraguay around 1973; continuing its advance northward on the continent, it was discovered in Bolivia in 1978 and in Peru the following year.

In Central America, it was discovered in Nicaragua in 1976 and last December was detected in El Salvador, about 400 kilometers, as the crow flies, from Mexico's leading coffee growing zone, the Soconusco.

When it was detected in Nicaragua in 1976 a campaign was set in motion to eradicate it, with all of the countries of Central America and Mexico participating.

Unfortunately, as a result of the political situation in that country, the disease went out of control and moved into El Salvador.

"This is what the country is worried about, inasmuch as the ecological conditions and the varieties of coffee that are grown in Mexico are favorable to the disease gaining a foothold. The efforts to arrest the rust are very costly owing to their effects on output."

In light of this situation, the National Program Against Coffee Rust and the Consulting Committee of the Federal Executive Branch were set up to stave off the rust and, should it arrive, to eradicate it.

The program involves a number of secretariats in addition to Agriculture and Water Resources, namely, the Secretariats of National Defense, Commerce, Government, Finance, Communications and Transport, Programming and Budget, as well as Banrural and the Mexican Coffee Institute, among others.

The program entails not only plant disease prevention and inspections at border points of entry but also an entire strategy including quarantines and, above all, encouragement of scientific methods in domestic coffee growing to dampen the impact of the disease should it appear.

With respect to the program's budget for 1980, he reported that protection of the coffee crop would require 444 million pesos, with 1.86 billion for improvements in coffee production. Institutional support totals 583 million, and there is another 20 million pesos for international efforts.

Banrural, the government bank, will provide 1.852 billion pesos in loans, and PIDER [Rural Development Investment Program] will invest 94 million more in coffee growing areas.

Total funds for this year amount to 4.853 billion pesos.

The SARH alone has available 107 million pesos for this program, the plant disease control director reported.

Cutierrez Samperio had the following to say about the efforts to limit the rust to affected zones in Nicaragua and El Salvador and thus avoid its spread:

The Guatemalan Government is willing to cooperate and is working along with the Mexican Government to prevent the rust from entering Guatemalan territory.

In addition, Mexico is continuing to aid Nicaraguan authorities in support of their struggle against the disease in the department of Carazo.

"In the case of El Salvador, we do not know what to do or to whom we should turn, and this very troublesome situation that the Central American country is experiencing could affect us."

"The department of Usulután, where the rust was detected last December, is 400 kilometers, as the crow flies, from Soconusco in Chiapas," he commented.

Other measures to detect the rust are the inspections or advisories that technicians from Plant Disease Control and the Mexican Coffee Institute conduct on all of the country's coffee plantations. In addition, growers are instructed as to how they should proceed if the rust appears.

8743

CSO: 3400

PANAMA

BRIEFS

BLACK SIGATOKA--The Agricultural Development Ministry is undertaking measures to prevent the outbreak of black sigatoka in the country. It has strengthened the quarantine posts in the airports, ports and border areas and will also increase the number of its inspectors. [PA081932 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 6 Mar 80 PA]

CSO: 5400

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